ECON 2: Market Imperfections and Policy – Syllabus

- **Lectures:**   **Mon/Wed/Fri 12-12:50pm**, live on Zoom, recording posted later on Canvas
- TA discussions: Tuesdays, 7-7:50pm and 8-8:50pm (starting in week 2)
- Office hours: Mon at 7pm, Wed & Fri at 4pm (schedule subject to change)

All class meetings (including lectures, discussion sections and office hours) will be on Zoom. For access, log into the course page on Canvas and go to Zoom LTI Pro. Lectures and discussion sessions will be recorded and posted in Media Gallery in Canvas.

- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian
  - Preferred contact for class-related questions: **Econ2Tocoian@gmail.com**
  - For personal or urgent issues, you can email me at: otocoian@ucsd.edu (this is generally preferred over messages in Canvas)
- Teaching Assistants
  - Graduate: Vivian Aluoch valuoch@ucsd.edu; Steven Brownstone sbrownst@ucsd.edu; Jordi Martinez jom001@ucsd.edu (Reader)
  - Undergraduate: Sara Ridzuan sridzuan@ucsd.edu

Course description:
- This course is the second in the principles of microeconomics sequence. It is a continuation of ECON 1, with emphasis on market failures and the role of government policy. Topics include market power, externalities & public goods, taxes, information economics, and labor markets. **Prerequisites:** Econ 1.

Webpage, class communications, and resources
- The *class webpage* is on Canvas (**https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/22065**) – become familiar with it now, and always read the information posted there before emailing us with basic questions.
- *You are responsible for checking your email and reading class announcements within 1 business day.*

- *Required* textbook:
  Frank et al. – *Principles of Economics* 7th edition, published by McGraw Hill
  Assignments – which account for 18% of the grade – will be completed through McGraw Hill's *Connect* online portal, which includes dynamic and interactive learning features, along with the static eBook.
  - If you bought and used an access code for Econ 1 within the last ~2 years, your account with McGraw Hill should still be active. If you need help accessing it, go to mhhe.com/support or call 800-331-5094.
  - If you don't already have a code, you can *opt in* (by going to Redshelf in Canvas) to get access. You will be billed $105.41 if you don't opt back out by January 16th. (For more questions about billing please contact textbooks@ucsd.edu.)
  - If you don't already have a code and can't afford the expense, please let me know.

- *Suggested*: Moblab account ($15).
  - Moblab is an online platform for games which simulate market interactions. They are fun and make it easier to grasp and retain new concepts.
  - We will do about 6-8 games (some are very short), usually in class. I can hold out-of-class sessions for students who can't attend class, if at least 10 students are interested.
  - If you purchase access but then can't enroll or drop the class, you can get refunded by emailing support@moblab.com. If you are in a financially difficult situation, let me know.
- Also *suggested*: Piazza page https://piazza.com/ucsd/winter2021/econ2

Grade composition
o   The grade will be composed as follows:
- o   Connect assignments (~18-20)   18%   (~2/week, bottom **2** dropped)
- o   Rehearsal test   2%   Friday of week 2
- o   Midterm 1   15%   Friday of week 3
- o   Midterm 2   25%   Friday of week 7
- o   Final   40%   Wednesday

o   There won't be separate credit awarded for MobLab activities, but they can be used towards the assignment credit, if you missed more than 2 Connect assignments.
o   A limited amount of extra credit (at most 3%) can be earned for class participation, providing helpful answers on Piazza, and participation in Moblab games (if not used to make up for missed assignments).

About Connect assignments (~18-20)
- o   You will get full credit for completing them, even if you made mistakes. (However, I *am* expecting you to make an honest effort. You will lose some points if, for instance, you "complete" the whole assignment in 2 minutes or get most of the questions completely wrong.)
- o   A majority of students consistently report that the textbook-based assignments were helpful for studying, which is why I continue to require them. Keep this in mind and try to take full advantage of this opportunity for studying (start early, don't rush, etc.)
- o   No late credit or extensions will be awarded on assignments, including if you add the class late, so please don't email me about this unless there is a special circumstance (e.g. illness) that causes you to miss several assignments. However, the bottom *two* scores are dropped *and* you can use Moblab game participation to make up for missed assignments.
- o   There are three types of assignments:
    1) *LearnSmart* tests your understanding of the most important concepts and can walk you through each chapter (click "Read" in the lower left corner to study).
    2) Video-based: shows you short video clips explaining a concept or method, then asks a couple of questions after each, to check understanding. You can skip through parts of the videos or speed them up if you think you got the gist.
    3) End-of-chapter problems = more traditional problem-solving assignment
- o   You will get all 3 types for most chapters. The first two types of assignments are helping you study, in addition to giving you the chance to practice for the tests.

Discussion questions
Each week, a set of problems ("discussion questions") will be posted, which the TAs will go over in discussion sections. These will cover the same topics as that week's assignment problems.
Answer keys will be posted on Canvas after the discussion sections.

Exams
The current plan is to rely on self-recorded individual Zoom sessions for proctoring. For the most up-to-date information, follow the corresponding link at the top of the course Canvas page.
- Tests will be no-collaboration and closed-book, except for one handwritten "cheat sheet". You can also use one or two empty sheets of paper as scratch paper. You are not allowed to use a personal calculator or any other electronic devices aside from the computer on which you are taking the test
- You can use your phone to log into your exam Zoom meeting for extra security – just disconnect audio.
- I reserve the right to change the proctoring method for later exams if this becomes necessary.
- I also reserve the right to administer one-on-one tests (oral and written) in order to ensure academic integrity. This could include spot checks (2-3 questions) of a randomly drawn set of students, or full re-tests in cases where exam rules were not followed (but there isn't evidence of cheating).

Exam schedule
- There will be two midterms, administered in class on the Fridays of weeks 3 and 7 (with the option of taking the test on the evening of the day before at 9pm Pacific time, as detailed in Canvas)
- The exam dates and times for the midterms will be finalized during week 1
- The final exam is scheduled for Wednesday at 12pm (the window available for it goes from 11:30am to 2:30pm, but we won't need the full 3 hours) – again with the option of taking the test during the evening before at 9pm.

About the content of the tests:
- o The tech rehearsal quiz is primarily intended to make sure everything works smoothly for the exams. There will also be some questions about the material, to test that equations, graphs etc. are displayed correctly.
- o The two midterms will cover incremental material, (although some concepts unavoidably build on earlier material).
- o The final exam will be cumulative, albeit with more focus on the most recent material, which hasn't yet been tested.

About grade assignment and curving:
- o By default, I apply the classic intervals (A-/A/A+ =90.0 and above; B-/B/B+ = 80 - 89.9; etc.)
- o When needed, I curve the total score up (or – equivalently – shift the thresholds down). This can only help you.
  → This means that I have to err on the side of making exams harder rather than easier – since *if exams are too easy I will be forced to curve down*.
- o I generally do not curve individual exam scores, unless the test ended up being significantly harder than I had intended.

Topics covered:

Chapter 3 (review): Supply and Demand	55-86 (31 pages)
Chapter 7 (review): Efficiency, Exchange and the Invisible Hand	173-202 (29 pages)
Chapter 8: Monopoly, Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition	203-236 (33 pages)
Chapter 9: Games and Strategic Behavior	237-262 (25 pages)
Chapter 10: An Introduction to Behavioral Economics	263-292 (29 pages)
Chapter 11: Externalities, Property Rights and the Environment	293-324 (31 pages)
Chapter 12: The Economics of Information	325-348 (23 pages)
Chapter 14: Public Goods and Tax Policy	373-398 (25 pages)
[Chapter 20: The Labor Market: Workers, Wages and Unemployment 525-544 (19 pages)]	

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Any suspected violations will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and can result in sanctions – including an F in this class, suspension or dismissal from the University. *Examples* of academic dishonesty include:
- Having another person complete an assignment for you
- Using unauthorized materials in an exam (e.g. electronics, lecture notes)
- Lying about having taken an exam or completed an assignment
- Receiving or sharing information about the test before the instructor explicitly gives the okay (since some students may have to take the exam at a different time)

If you are not sure whether something is permitted, ASK!