ECON 100A – Intermediate Microeconomics, Syllabus
** Various aspects of the course may change. Check https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/32815 for updates**

Course Information
- Location
    - Per campus policy, all course meetings will be online for the first 4 weeks (Zoom LTI Pro on Canvas)
    - I plan to hold class in person as soon as allowed, but some discussions and most office hours will probably remain remote.
    - Regardless of location, lectures and discussions WILL be recorded and posted on Canvas.
    - Office hours and SI sessions will NOT be recorded.
- **Lecture schedule: Mon/Wed/Fri, 12-12:50pm** (Galbraith Hall 242 or on Zoom)
- Course description:
    - This is the 1st class in the Intermediate Microeconomics sequence. We will model consumer behavior, from consumer preferences to building market demand functions, to solving for the supply of labor and of savings.
    - Pre-requisites: Econ 1 and calculus
- TA-led discussion sections: (you can attend any of them, regardless of section)
    - Wed, 3-3:50pm in Center Hall 113 or on Zoom
    - Wed, 4-4:50pm in Center Hall 212 or on Zoom
    - Fri, 1-1:50pm in Center Hall 113 or on Zoom
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) study group sessions: Tue 7-8:20pm (In-Person), Wed 7:00-8:20pm (Virtual) – more info at https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/32003

Teaching team and office hours
- Dr. Oana Tocoian
    - Office hours – Mon 3-4pm in Revelle Plaza (in front of Galbraith Hall) & on Zoom
    - Email for all class-related questions: **Econ100A.Tocoian@gmail.com** (also monitored by TAs)
    - For personal matters and for after the end of the quarter: otocoian@ucsd.edu
    - Avoid sending messages through Canvas, and always email us from your UCSD account.
- Teaching Assistants (best way to contact is also at Econ100A.Tocoian@gmail.com)
    - Adrian Wolanski – Wed 10:30-11:30am (Zoom)
    - Jay Cizeski – Fri 2:10-3:10pm (Zoom)
    - Ishani Chatterjee – Thu 10-11am (Zoom)
    - Diana Martinez – Mon 10-11am (Zoom)
- Readers: Zhiyun Jiang, Vafa Behnam Roudsari (no direct contact outside of exam proctoring)
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader: Jack Rosetti (contact directly at jrosetti@ucsd.edu)

Webpage and Materials
- The class webpage is on Canvas: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/32815 - check it often
    - All relevant info, resources, and updates will be posted on or linked through here.
- Textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach: 1st Edition* by Hal Varian
    - I strongly recommend getting the textbook if you don't have it yet (and I may assign some problems from it), but you can use *any format* you like, including on paper, as we will *not* be using an online textbook portal. (Just make sure you get the "with calculus" edition.)
- Additional resources are on (or linked through) the Canvas page. These include:
    - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (IMVH)
    - Mark Machina's *Math Handout*

- The discussion board will be on Discord (invite link: https://discord.gg/9P6gH9qU2B). It's okay to use a non-UCSD email for this, and remember you can set server-specific nicknames. If you don't appear with your real name but want to be considered for potential extra credit, send an email from your school account to Econ100A.Tocoian@gmail.com with the subject line "Discord name".

Grade Composition

Course grades will be assigned based on the total score at the end of the quarter, and they will be curved *up* if this seems appropriate (it usually is).

Your total score will be the highest of the following 3 options:

	A	B	C
• Problem sets (lowest one dropped)	15%	15%	15%
• Online quiz (Mon, Jan 24)	10%	10%	10%
• Midterm1 (Wed, Feb 2)	20%	--	20%
• Midterm 2 (Wed, Feb 23)	20%	20%	--
• Final (cumulative – Wed, Mar 16)	35%	55%	55%

(You don't need to request A, B, or C.)

Individual exams are not assigned a grade, and I typically use the *raw* exam scores to calculate the total. However, I may adjust the score of individual exams if the average is significantly below target, or below the average on other exams. (The goal is to make scores comparable across exams.)

Exams

- NEW: we've added an online quiz worth 10% of the grade on Jan 24th (the day midterm 1 was originally scheduled) – in order to still have some form of assessment before the drop/grade change deadline. The quiz will be taken during class time. Remote proctoring method will be announced – most likely you will take the test in a recorded individual Zoom meeting.
- Whenever campus guidelines allow, we will hold in-person exams. Midterms are planned for during class, on ~~Jan 24th~~ Feb 2nd and Feb 23rd (see the "Calendar and lecture notes" page). The final exam is fixed at the date and time listed in the schedule of classes (March 16, between 11:30am and 2:30pm). You will each be assigned a specific seat ahead of time and you will be given a paper test to complete.
  - o For students who cannot attend in person (e.g. because they are prevented by travel restrictions, or are required to quarantine at home), there will be a set of detailed instructions for how to self-proctor remotely.
  - o Each student is allowed to skip one midterm (**not** both) and shift its weight to the final with no penalty. No prior approval or documentation is needed to take advantage of this accommodation. However, students taking the final online will need to follow a more restrictive set of instructions.
- There are no make-up exams.

Problem sets (about 6)

Homeworks will consist mainly of problem-solving, but you may also occasionally be assigned some videos or articles, and asked to answer some questions (either specific or open-ended).

Assignments will be scored generously, so if you attend class and put in an earnest effort (and show all your work), you should be able to get the full score.

Late assignments (usually accepted up to 24 hours late) will receive a 50% off penalty, but the lowest score will be dropped. This is intended to make up for the occasional mishap, like forgetting to turn in your answers, or your laptop crashing. We don't give extensions, except in cases of significant multi-day disruptions that are outside your control, such as having to care for a sick family member.

If you are on the waitlist, you need to keep up with the class and submit assignments as if enrolled.

Participation and extra credit

Synchronous attendance is *not required*, but it is *strongly recommended*. Providing helpful answers or initiating relevant discussions on Discord will count towards extra credit, as will class participation (when in person, try to sit in the same spot, and introduce yourself during or after lecture). Extra credit is applied after total scores are computed and grade cutoffs have been established, so as not to affect the curve (otherwise it's not "extra" anymore). Extra credit is usually 1-2%, so it only makes a difference in threshold cases. However, it can be up to 3% for top contributions.

Future opportunities:
- *100AH*: If you earn an A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100AH (follow up with the Economics department to confirm when it will next be offered). Honors classes are capped at 20 students and you will get to know the faculty member well (important for getting informed letters of recommendation). These classes typically have you give a short presentation and write a short paper. Presenting and writing in the major are two valuable skills that are challenging for us to offer in large classes.

Accommodation for disabilities
If you have a disability, please register with the Office for Students with Disability and send your documentation to the undergraduate Econ advisors ASAP. More information: https://osd.ucsd.edu/resources/covid-19.html

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 or take an exam for you
- Having another person give you the answers to an assignment or an exam
    - Working together on problem sets IS permitted, but it has to be a joint effort and you each have to write down the answers (including all the steps) in your own handwriting.
    - Copying the answers from a classmate does not constitute "working together"
- Using unauthorized materials in an exam (e.g. electronics, lecture notes)
- Lying about having taken an exam or completed an assignment

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

Schedule of topics
For the detailed up-to-date schedule, with assigned IMVH videos and textbook chapters, follow the link on the course Canvas page, or go directly to: https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/32815/pages/topics-and-assigned-videos