

**Economics 100AH: Honors Microeconomics
Fall 2007**

General Information:

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Famulari (mfamulari@ucsd.edu)

Office: Econ 221

Office Hours: Thursday 10:00-1:00

Meetings: Tuesday in Sequoyah Hall, Room 231 from (10-10:50). This is in addition to the regular three times a week lecture of 100A. The following is the plan for each week; student presentations will involve each of you presenting your paper in the lecture.

October 2	Lecture on Revealed Preference
October 9	Lecture on Andreoni, James and J. H. Miller, "Giving According to GARP: An Experimental Test of the Consistency of Preferences for Altruism." <i>Econometrica</i> , v. 70, no.2, March 2002, 737-753 (JSTOR)
October 16	Lecture (topic, TBA)
October 23	Student Presentation
October 30	Student Presentation
November 6	Student Presentation
November 13	Student Presentation
November 20	<i>No meeting</i>
November 27	Student Presentation
December 4	Lecture (topic, TBA)

Grading

You get two separate grades: one for 100A (four credits) and one for 100AH (one credit). Your grade for 100A will be determined as explained in the main syllabus for that course. For 100AH, your grade will be a combination of three things:

- Regular participation in our meetings (~20%)
- Your presentation at one of the meetings (~25%)
- Your end-of-quarter paper (~55%)

Both your presentation and end-of-quarter paper will be based on one of the papers listed in the Possible Readings (or a paper/topic of your choice that you discuss with me). **The presentation should last approximately 30 minutes**, and your goal is to explain to the rest of us the following things:

1. What is the basic idea of the paper?
2. How does the paper go about pursuing the idea?
3. What did you learn from the paper?
4. Do you see any problems with or have any criticisms of the paper? Can you say anything about how you might extend or push the paper further?
5. Any other thoughts or opinions you have about the paper or topic.

Your end-of-quarter paper should be 4-6 pages long (1.5 or double spacing) and can be on either the same paper you covered in class, or any other paper in the Reading List. The goals are similar to that of the presentation, but I expect you to go into more detail here, especially with regards to conveying the ideas of the topic/paper. You should write clearly and concisely, and you will be judged on your ability to distill the relevant ideas using the tools we have studied in 100A and 100AH. The difficulty of your chosen paper or topic will be taken into consideration. **Papers are due no later than 2:30 pm on Thursday, December 13th; no exceptions.**

Possible Readings

I. Writings of Nobel Laureates

1. Arrow, Kenneth J., "A Difficulty in the Concept of Social Welfare," *Journal of Political Economy*, August 1950: 328-346 ([JSTOR](#))
 - This paper presents the famous *Arrow Impossibility Theorem*
2. Becker, Gary S., "Irrational Behavior and Economic Theory," *Journal of Political Economy*, February 1962: 1-13 ([JSTOR](#))
3. Becker, Gary S., "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach," *Journal of Political Economy*, March 1968: 169-217. ([JSTOR](#))
4. Coase, Ronald H., "The Problem of Social Cost," *The Journal of Law and Economics*, October 1960: 1-44. ([JSTOR](#))
5. Stigler, George J., "The Development of Utility Theory. I" *Journal of Political Economy*, August 1950: 307-327 ([JSTOR](#))
6. Stigler, George J., "The Development of Utility Theory. II" *Journal of Political Economy*, August 1950: 373-396 ([JSTOR](#))
7. Stigler, George J. and Gary S. Becker, "De Gustibus Non Est Disputandum." *American Economic Review*, March 1977: 76-90. ([JSTOR](#))
 - This paper is about how many social phenomena/problems that seem to be about differences in people's preferences can in fact be explained through a standard microeconomic approach.

II. Other Stuff

- 8.. Gruber, Jonathan and Sendil Mullainathan, "Do Cigarette Taxes Make Smokers Happier?" *Advances in Economic Analysis & Policy*: Vol. 5 : Iss. 1, Article 4. ([BEPress](#))
9. Fryer, Roland G. Jr. and Steven D. Levitt, "The Causes and Consequences of a Distinctively Black Name" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, v. CXIX, no. 4, August 2004 ([QJE](#))
10. Sugden, Robert, "On the Economics of Philanthropy," *Economic Journal*, June 1982: 341-350, ([JSTOR](#))
11. Waldfogel, Joel, "The Deadweight Loss of Christmas." *American Economic Review*, December 1993: 1328-1336 ([JSTOR](#))
 - If you do study this paper, JSTOR has a whole list of related comments and replies that you should also examine.
12. Wittman, Donald, "Efficient Rules in Highway Safety and Sports Activity," *American Economic Review*, March 1982: 78-90 ([JSTOR](#)).

III. Any article your textbook cites is a good bet!