

ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS, Part A (#591659)

Spring 2007, Peterson Hall 110, T-TH 12:30-1:50

Lecturer: Dr. Melissa Famulari

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Office: Econ 221

Office Hrs: Wednesday 8:30-11:30

Teaching Assistants:

(1) David Eil deil@ucsd.edu

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Office: Sequoyah Hall 139

Office Hrs: T-TH 11:00-12:00 noon

Prerequisites: Econ 3 and either Math 10C or Math 20C.

Assessment: There are two in class midterm exams, **Thursday, April 26th** and **Thursday, May 17th** each of which is worth 25% of your grade. The final exam is cumulative and is worth 50% of your grade. The final is on **Thursday, June 14th from 11:30-2:30 pm.**

Course Objectives: This course is the first part of a two-part upper division sequence in microeconomics. We will study the basic mathematical structure of microeconomic models, the theory of the consumer, the theory of the firm, and markets when there is price taking behavior. Compared to Econ 1, Econ 100A emphasizes mathematical modeling in developing the theory.

Course Materials:

Text: Walter Nicholson, *Microeconomic Theory*, 9th ed. (South-Western, Thompson Learning, Inc., 2005). There is a UCSD custom version of the book that is available at the bookstore for \$60. There is also a study guide by David Stapleton, *Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, that I think is very useful (but it is not required for the course).

Additional Readings: There are many textbooks you can use to supplement Nicholson. Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks include Hal R. Varian's, *Intermediate Microeconomics* and Binger and Hoffman's, *Microeconomics with Calculus*.

One free option is an online introductory textbook written by Preston McAfee of Caltech <http://www.introecon.com/>. The level of this book is between Econ 1 and Econ 100A. It is very interesting, free, and you may find it useful

Mathematics Tutorial for Economists: Written by Martin Osborne University of Toronto) <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/osborne/MathTutorial/index.html>, Chapters 1-6 of this will help you review the calculus tools that you learned in Math 10ABC or 20ABC that are the most important for this course.

WebCT: This is where you access the syllabus, class handouts, a discussion board, your grades, homework assignments, etc. I have posted the PowerPoint slides I used the first time I taught this class. While former 100A students and I did not find the PowerPoint lectures the most effective way for me to teach the 100A material, you may find it useful to look through them. I have also posted all of my old 100A exams.

Weekly Homework: I will post homework assignments on WebCT each week by Friday. During the problem solving session (see below) the TA's will help you work on the homework assignment for that week. I will generally post the answer key to the homework on the Friday one week after the problem set was assigned.

Problem Solving Sessions: These sessions will be conducted by your TAs and in addition to office hours and class, this is another time where you can get help solving problems. Sessions will start second week. As soon as I get a room for these sessions, I will announce the specific location and time of these sessions in class.

Administrative Issues:

- (1) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation and come to talk to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities, Building 202 University Center as soon as possible. For information on the steps for academic accommodation, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app3.htm>.
- (2) Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this academic sanction that I will impose, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty. For a review of UCSD policy, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.
- (3) You will only need a pen or pencil for exams. Exams are closed book and you may not use notes. Exams are also completely electronic-free: no calculators, headphones, cell phones, etc. are to be used in any manner during an exam.
- (4) If you arrive late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in his/ her exam and left the room*. If a classmate has already turned in his/her exam and you arrive late, you will earn a zero on the test.
- (5) If you believe an exam has not been graded properly, you may ask for a re-grade. I will then re-grade your entire exam. The re-graded score will be your grade for the exam. You may not ask for another re-grade or go back to your first grade. If there is simply a mistake adding up the points on your exam, then bring it to my attention and I will correct it immediately.
- (6) UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please refer to Triton Link at <https://tritonlink.ucsd.edu/portal/site/tritonlink-preview/menuitem.b4448692267a11256ec5e210514b01ca?storyID=17736%20> or contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245.

Week	Nicholson Chapter	Topic
(1) 4/3	1, 2 (p20-30), 3	Introduction Consumer Preferences: Axioms of Rational Choice Utility Functions Level curves of utility function: Indifference Curves Marginal Rate of Substitution
(2) 4/10	2 (p31-58), Machina Math Handout, 4	Common Utility Functions The Budget Constraint Mathematical Review of Optimization
(3) 4/17	4	Utility Maximization and Demand Functions
(4) 4/24	5	Comparative Statics of Demand A. Income changes B. Price changes (income and substitution effects) C. Compensated price changes and compensated demand functions. D. Slutsky Equation Midterm 1: Thursday, April 26
(5) 5/1	6	Comparative Statics of Demand (continued) E. Demand Relationships among goods
(6) 5/8	7	Theory of Production
(7) 5/15	8	Theory of Cost A. Short Run Cost Functions B. Long Run Cost minimization Midterm 2: Thursday, May 17
(8) 5/22	8	Theory of Cost (continued) C. Long Run Cost Functions D. Relationship between Long Run and Short Run Cost Curves
(9) 5/29	9	Profit Maximization and Supply under Perfect Competition
(10) 6/6	10	Partial Equilibrium with Perfectly Competitive Markets

Final Exam: Thursday, May 14th, 11:30-2:30.