

ECONOMICS 100B: MICROECONOMICS, Part B
Spring 2008

Lecture 1 (B00): Tues, Thurs 2:00pm-3:20pm SOLIS 104
Lecture 2 (A00): Tues Thurs 5:00pm-6:20pm PCYNH 106

Class webpage: <http://econ.ucsd.edu/~snali/ECO100B.htm>

Email: eco100b@gmail.com

Please check the webpage regularly. It will contain handouts, announcements, and updates. For all correspondence, please use the above gmail email address so that your questions may be answered promptly.

Professor:

Nageeb Ali	snali@ucsd.edu	Office: ECON 214 OH: Tues, Thurs 9:30–10:30am
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Teaching Assistants:

Lecture 1 (B00):

(1) Aislinn Bohren	abohren@ucsd.edu	Office: ECON 127 OH: Mon 11:00am-12:00pm
(2) Chulyoung Kim	chk002@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 224 OH: Tues 1:00pm-2:00pm

Lecture 2 (A00):

(1) Charles Sprenger	csprenger@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 207 OH: Th 11:00am-12:00pm
(2) Chris Wonnell	cwonnell@sandiego.edu	Office: ECON 126 OH: Fri 10:00am – 11:00am

Course Content

This is the second of three courses in microeconomics and will build on the material presented in the prerequisite economics 100A. The principal themes of the course will be the theory of production and firms, the markets for factors of production, and the competitive equilibrium reached between producers and consumers in the economy. The class emphasizes mathematical analysis in developing the theory, but will also discuss real-world applications to demonstrate the usefulness and importance of the theory.

Prerequisites

You need to have taken the prerequisite courses listed in the UCSD catalog, and should be comfortable with microeconomics and calculus. Let me emphasize this point: if you have trouble with basic calculus, this course may be inappropriate for you. *Talk to me at the beginning of the quarter if you are unsure about your preparation.*

Readings

Required Text: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* (Perloff)
Chapters 6-10 and 15

Additional Readings: There are many textbooks you can use to supplement Perloff. Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks include Walter Nicholson's, *Microeconomic Theory*. 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 at the 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.

TA Sections

The TA's will lead two weekly discussion sections to review material from lecture, answer questions, and work on practice problems. It is important that you attend either (or both) of these sections.

TA section A: M 7:00pm-7:50pm, 8:00pm-8:50pm SOLIS 104

TA section B: W 7:00pm-7:50pm, 8:00pm-8:50pm CENT 109

Grading and Exams

There are two in class midterm exams on **April 22** and **May 20**, each of which is worth 25% of your grade. The final is cumulative and is worth 50% of your grade. The final is listed on the **UCSD course schedule**.

Note: If you miss either midterm for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, then the other midterm will count for 1/3 of your grade and the final for 2/3 of your grade. If you do not have a verifiable reason for missing a midterm, you will receive a zero, no exceptions!! In the event that you miss a midterm, contact me immediately.

You will not be graded on attendance but of course are responsible for the announcements made and material presented during lecture.

I will also assign homework problem sets regularly. They will not be graded and you do not need to turn it in. However, *you are strongly urged to take them seriously and attempt all assigned problems*. The TA's will go over solutions during their weekly sections.

Succeeding in the Course

Doing well in this course requires you to not only attend lectures, sections, and read the textbook, but moreover to practice solving problems. Problem-solving is the only way to succeed. Glancing at the solution to a problem and just verifying if you understand it is not enough; you must try and solve the problem yourself before checking a solution. I encourage you to attempt solving as many problems as you can on the topics we cover. These include—but are not limited to—the homework problems I assign and the end of chapter exercises in the Perloff textbook. Don't hesitate to ask me if you want more problems to solve. The TA's will work through exercises in their sections; this will be most beneficial to you only if you have already attempted some on your own first. To sum up: unless you learn to solve problems on your own, you will have difficulty in the exams, never mind mastering the material. The only way to acquire this skill is through practice.

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 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 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, electronic devices (including calculators, headphones, cell phones), books or consult other classmates.
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*. Once a classmate has turned in his/her exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.
5. If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must submit a re-grade request *in writing within 2 days* from when it was returned to you. You must explain clearly why you believe your score is in error. I will then go over

the *entire exam* and change your score *either up or down* as is necessary: you cannot have me re-grade only part of the exam. You may not ask for another regrade or go back to your first grade. Hence, by submitting a re-grade request, you run the risk of having your score decrease (if you were awarded points generously elsewhere on the exam) so please consider the decision very carefully.

6. UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245. The economics department does not allow late additions (additions after the second week) to any class.

Schedule of Topics and Lectures

Dates	Topics	Chapters
April 1, 3, and 8	Firms and Production	6
April 10, 15, and 17	Theory of Costs	7
April 22	Midterm	
April 24, 29, and May 1	Competitive Firms and Markets	8
May 6, 13, and 15	Applications of Competitive Model	9
May 20	Midterm	
May 22, 27, and 29	General Equilibrium and Economic Welfare	10
June 3	Factor Markets	15
June 5	Review for Final Exam	