

ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS, Spring 2012

Lecture 1: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:50 am in SOLIS 107

Lecture 2: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:50 am in WLH 2001

Instructor:

Dr. Melissa Famulari mfamulari@ucsd.edu Office: Econ 221 Hours: Week 1, Friday 12:00- 3:00p
Hours: Weeks 2-10, Friday 10:00a-1:00p

<i>Graduate TAs</i>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>	<u>Email</u>
(1) Ben Backes	Econ 119	Tuesday 11-1:00pm NO HOURS Week 8 Make up: Week 7 Tuesday 1-3:00.	bbackes@ucsd.edu
(2) Michael Furchtgott	Econ 122	Thursday 12-2:00pm	mfurchtg@ucsd.edu
(3) Jacob Johnson	Sequoiah 236	Wednesday 9-12:00 noon	j4johnson@ucsd.edu
(4) Timothy Keller	Sequoiah 140	Thursday 2-5:00pm	tkeller@ucsd.edu
(5) Charles Lin	Econ 124	Wednesday 12-2:00 pm	chl083@ucsd.edu
(6) Anthony (Antung) Liu	Econ 122	Monday, 10am-12pm NO HOURS Weeks 1 and 3 Makeup Hours: Monday 1:30-3:30 Weeks 4 and 7.	aaliu@ucsd.edu
<i>Undergraduate TAs</i>			
(1) Camille Briat	Sequoiah 231	Tuesday 9-11:00 am. EXCEPT WEEK 6 (May 8): 5-7 Sequoiah 244	cbriat@ucsd.edu
(2) Oliver Davies	Econ 300	M-W 12-1:00 pm	odavies@ucsd.edu
(3) Claire Tran	Sequoiah 244	Wednesday 1:45-3:45pm	cqt002@ucsd.edu
(4) Travis Wood	Sequoiah 139	Tuesday 2-4pm.	tcwood@ucsd.edu
(5) Andrew Yen	Sequoiah 139	Monday 1-3pm	a2yen@ucsd.edu

Prerequisites: Microeconomic principles (Econ 1) and a year of calculus (either Math 10C or 20C or 21C).

Assessment: There are two inclass midterm exams, **Tuesday, April 24** and **Thursday, May 17**, each of which is worth 22% of your grade. Online homework accounts for 10% of your grade. The final exam is cumulative and is worth 46% of your grade. The date of the final **for the 9:30 class** is **Tuesday, June 12 from 8:00a-11:00a**. The date of the final **for the 12:30 class** is **Monday, June 11 from 11:30a-2:30**.

Course Objectives: As the first class in the micro sequence, Econ 100A is designed to teach you how to set up, solve and analyze optimization models and apply these mathematical models to the theory of the consumer (commodity demand, labor supply and consumption/savings decisions). Finally, we will examine the fundamentals of decision making under risk and uncertainty.

Course Materials:

Required Textbook and Reading:

- (1) Nechyba, Thomas J. (2011) *Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus*, South-Western, Cengage Learning. Students should purchase the "UCSD Custom Edition" of the book for \$121.33 from UCSD's bookstore because the custom book provides one year of access to Aplia (an online homework manager) and an e-book. I will be using Aplia to assign graded homework (see discussion below). Chapters 1-10, 17 and the elasticity portion of 18 are required.
- (2) Machina, Mark (2010) "Math Handout"

Additional Readings:

Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks that you could use to supplement Nechyba include Nicholson and Snyder's, *Microeconomic Theory*, Binger and Hoffman's, *Microeconomics with Calculus* and Perloff's *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications 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

Mandatory Discussion Sessions: These mandatory sessions are conducted by the TAs who will answer your questions regarding lectures, the textbook, homework problems and old exam problems. Please go to the discussion section you are enrolled in.

Ted: This is where you access the syllabus, class handouts, a discussion board, your grades, homework assignments, etc. I have also posted my old 100A exams to give you some additional practice. NOTE: Though I will not post answers to the old exams, you may find them a useful study tool.

Weekly Homework: It is tremendously important that you keep up with the course and that you practice solving economic problems. We give you two incentives for keeping up.

1. **Online homework:** Each week there will be online homework through Aplia. Look for an announcement on Ted for how to sign up for Aplia. This homework will be graded automatically by Aplia and reported to us. Performance on the 8 highest homework assignments will count for 10% of your grade.
2. **Written homework:** Each Friday we will post homework assignments on Ted. During your discussion section, your TA will work on the homework assignment for that week. We will post the homework answer key the following Friday. *These homeworks are voluntary, not graded, but are the most important part of the course.* To make the most of your time in this course, do these homeworks.

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 material that you learned in Math 10ABC or 20ABC that are the most important for this course.

Administrative Issues:

- (1) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation 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
- (2) Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to my academic sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty.
- (3) EXAMS
 - a. You must bring your student ID to all exams.
 - b. You may only use a pen/pencil and a straight edge during exams.
 - i. Exams are closed book and you may not use any notes.
 - ii. Exams are electronic-free: you may not use calculators, headphones, cell phones, etc. during an exam
 - c. 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.
 - d. There are no bathroom breaks during midterm exams.
 - e. If there is a mistake adding the points on your exam, bring it to my attention within one week of the exam being returned and I will correct it.
 - f. If you believe your exam has not been graded properly, you may request a re-grade within one week of the exam being returned. I will 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.

Week	Text, Math Handout	Topic
(1) 4/3	Chapters: 0 (see p. 15 of textbook) 2 4	I. Introduction II. The Budget Constraint III. Consumer Preferences: A. Axioms of Rational Choice B. Utility Functions C. Level curves of utility function: Indifference Curves D. Marginal Rate of Substitution
(2) 4/10	Chapter 5 Sects. D, E (Math Handout.)	III. Common Utility Functions: Cobb-Douglas, Perfect Complements (Leontief), Perfect Substitutes, CES V. Mathematical Review of Optimization
(3) 4/17	Chapter 6	VI. Utility Maximization and Demand Functions
(4) 4/24	Chapter 9 (A1, B1)	Midterm 1: Tuesday, April 24 VII. Comparative Statics of Demand A. Income changes B. Price changes (income and substitution effects)
(5) 5/1	Chapter 7	VII. Comparative Statics of Demand (continued) C. Compensated price changes and compensated demand functions. D. Slutsky Equation E. Demand Relationships among goods
(6) 5/8	Chapter 10	VIII. Consumer's Surplus and Deadweight Loss
(7) 5/15		Midterm 2: Thursday, May 17
(8) 5/22	Chs. 3(A1, B1), 8(A2, B2), 9(A2, B2)	IX. Supply of Labor: The Labor-Leisure Decision
(9) 5/29	Chs. 3 (A2,3, B2,3), 8(A3, B3), 9(A3, B3).	X. Supply of Saving: The Consumption-Savings Decision
(10) 6/5	Chapter 17	X. Decision Making under Risk and Uncertainty

FINAL EXAM FOR 9:30 CLASS: Tuesday, June 12 from 8:00a-11:00a.

FINAL EXAM FOR 12:30 CLASS: Monday, June 11 from 11:30a-2:30p.