ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS, Spring 2014

Lecture A: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:30 am in Center Hall 101
Lecture B: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30- 1:50 am in Center Hall 101

Instructor:
   Dr. Melissa Famulari   Office: Econ 221   Hours: Friday 1:15-3:45p   email: mfamulari@ucsd.edu

Graduate TAs	Office	Office Hours
(1) Andrew Chamberlin	SH 244	Mondays, 2-4pm

Undergraduate TAs		
(1) Renee Chen	SH 139	Wednesdays, 8:00-9:00am
	SH 139	Fridays, 10:00-11:00a.
(2) Wendy Hong	SH 139	Mondays, 10:00a-noon.
(3) Amanda Horowitz	SH 139	Wednesdays, 11:00a-1:00p.
(4) Hannah Rosenthal	SH 139	Thursdays, 2:00-4:00p.
(5) Yun Sheng	SH 139	Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:00p.

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 22** and **Thursday, May 15**, each of which is worth 25% of your grade. Discussion section quizzes count for 5% of your grade. The final exam is cumulative and is worth 45% of your grade. The only extra credit for the class is a 1% bonus for being in the top 100 good answerers on Piazza, our class discussion board. The date of the final for the **11:00 class** is **Tuesday, June 10 from 11:30a-2:30p.** The date of the final for the **12:30 class is Monday, June 9 from 11:30a-2:30p.**

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) Perloff, Jeffrey, *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus (3rd Ed.).*
        a. There is a UCSD custom version (a new cover, identical book) at the bookstore for $106.75. It is bundled with a one-year access code to a searchable e-book and supplemental problems. I will not be using Perloff's problems to assign grades in this class (but I will give you access to them as additional practice). Note: your 100B or 100C instructors MAY require access to Perloff's problems.
        b. For my class, if you can find the 3rd edition cheaper, great! If you want to use the 2nd edition, that is also fine but I will be referring to the 3rd edition in lecture.
    (2) Machina, Mark (2010), *Math Handout*

Additional Readings:
    Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks that you could use to supplement Perloff include Nechyba's *Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus,* Nicholson and Snyder's, *Microeconomic Theory*, and Binger and Hoffman's, *Microeconomics with Calculus.* One free option is an online introductory textbook written by Preston McAfee of Google http://www.introecon.com/. He wrote this while at Caltech and the level is between Econ 1 and Econ 100A. It is very interesting, free, and you may find it useful.

Mandatory Discussion Sessions: Your discussion section TA will answer your questions regarding lectures, the textbook, homework problems and old exam problems. Most weeks there will be a quiz in section. Your top 5 scores will count 5% of your grade.

Ted: This is where you access the syllabus, class handouts, your grades, homework assignments, etc. I have posted my old 100A exams to give you some additional practice. NOTE: I will not post answers to the old exams. If you attempt these problems on your own and get stuck, then we will be happy to work on these problems with you during office hours.

Piazza: This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and myself. I encourage you to post your questions and answer your classmate's questions on Piazza. I will give a 1% bonus to the top 100 good answerers in the class. You can find our class page on Ted.

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. *Discussion section quizzes:* Most weeks there will be a quiz in your discussion section (there will not be a quiz if there is a midterm that week or in the final week of the quarter). Performance on the 5 highest quizzes will count for 5% 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. If you observe or otherwise know about academic misconduct in my class, I encourage you to tell me, or use UCSD's new anonymous system at https://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/reporting.html
(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 copy a random fraction of the exams and so it is OK to use a pencil.
        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.* 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 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) 4/1	Ch.1, 2.1, 2.5 Math Handout: Sects. A, B, C Ch. 3.1, 3.2	I. Introduction II. Consumer Preferences: A. Axioms of Rational Choice B. Utility Functions C. Level curves of utility function: Indifference Curves D. Marginal Rate of Substitution
4/6	MAKE-UP CLASS SUNDAY, APRIL 6 . Center 101 12:00-1:20 or 1:30-3:00	III. Common Utility Functions: Cobb-Douglas, Perfect Complements (Leontief), Perfect Substitutes, CES IV. Budget Constraint
(2) 4/8	CLASS IS CANCELLED TUESDAY, APRIL 8th Ch. 3.3, 3.4 Math Handout: Sects. D, E Perloff Calculus Appendix: A.1-A.6.	V. Mathematical Review of Optimization
(3) 4/15	Ch. 4.1	VI. Utility Maximization and Demand Functions
(4) 4/22	Ch. 4.2	**Midterm 1: Tuesday, April 22** VII. Comparative Statics of Demand A. Income changes B. Price changes (income and substitution effects)
(5) 4/29	Ch 4.3, 4.4, 4.5	VII. Comparative Statics of Demand (continued) C. Compensated price changes and compensated demand functions. D. Slutsky Equation E. Demand Relationships among goods F. Revealed Preference
(6) 5/6	Ch. 5.1-5.4	VIII. Consumer's Surplus and Deadweight Loss
(7) 5/13		**Midterm 2: Thursday, May 15**
(8) 5/20	Ch. 5.5	IX. Supply of Labor: The Labor-Leisure Decision
(9) 5/27	McAfee online text: p 169-173.	X. Supply of Saving: The Consumption-Savings Decision
(10) 6/3	Ch. 16.1-16.3	XI. Decision Making under Risk and Uncertainty

FINAL EXAM FOR 11:00 CLASS: Tuesday, June 10 from 11:20a-2:30p.

FINAL EXAM FOR 12:30 CLASS: Monday, June 9 from 11:30a-2:30p.