

ECONOMICS 172B: Introduction to Operations Research (Part B)

Spring 2014

Lectures: MWF 2:00 – 2:50 pm in Centr 101

Discussions: Thursdays 7-7:50 pm in Centr 115 & 8-8:50 pm in York 2622

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Office: Econ 108

Course webpage: <https://ted.ucsd.edu>

TAs: TBA

This course primarily studies non-linear programming. We will examine optimization problems where the objective function, the constraint, or both are non-linear. We will use computational methods to find approximate solutions and calculus to find exact solutions. The course also studies dynamic programming, search models and inventory models. Dynamic programming is a method of analyzing optimization problems that exploits the sequential structure of the problem.

Prerequisites:

ECON 172A or Math 171A.

Lectures and Problem Sessions:

You are responsible for all the material in the lectures. Partial notes will be available on the class webpage before each lecture. I recommend that you print these out beforehand and fill in the missing information. I'll do my best to avoid typos but you're responsible for the correct material. I want you to understand the material instead of simply memorizing it. If you miss a lecture, borrow someone's notes. Problem Sessions are optional but recommended.

Exams:

Your grade will be determined on the basis of two Midterm Exams (25% each) and the Final Exam (50%). Alternatively your lower midterm will count for 15%; your higher midterm will count for 25% and your final will count for 60%.

Midterm 1 will be held in class on Monday, April 21st. Midterm 2 will be held in class on Wednesday, May 14th. The final exam will be held on Friday, June 13th from 3:00 – 6:00pm. If you know in advance that you cannot make an exam, please let me know as soon as possible.

You must get the instructor's permission (in advance if possible) if you miss a midterm. If you miss a midterm for an approved reason the weight for that exam will be placed on the final. If you miss the final exam for a documented, university approved reason (ie., illness, official university trip), you will most likely receive an Incomplete for the class and will need to make-up the exam during the following quarter. If you miss the final exam for another reason (ie., oversleep) you will receive a zero for the exam. No one will be allowed to start an exam after the first person leaves it.

You are only permitted to use pens and pencils, a straight edge and one note card during each exam. The note card can be any size up to 8.5" by 5.5" for the midterms and up to 8.5" by 11" for the final. It may **only** have handwritten notes on both sides. Typed or mechanically reproduced notes are not permitted. Do **not** attach anything to your note card. If your note sheet does not adhere to any of these conditions it will be immediately confiscated during the exam. Additionally a report may be filed with the Academic Integrity Office.

You **cannot** sit next to anyone you studied with during an exam.

Academic dishonesty:

I take academic dishonesty seriously. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will most likely earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this sanction, 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>.

Regrade requests:

Regrade requests are only permitted if the entire exam was answered in pen. Regrade requests must be made through a written statement **before** the start of class one week after the exam was first passed back. This deadline is firm! Extensions will only be permitted if you have a documented, university approved reason for missing the entire week after the exam was first passed back. If you request a regrade I may regrade your entire exam and your score could go up, down or stay the same. **Do not add or change anything on your exam if you request a regrade!**

Text:

Introduction to Operations Research, 9th Edition, Hillier and Lieberman, McGraw-Hill. I will give references for the 9th edition but other recent editions should also be fine. The material for this course is fairly standard; other Operations Research texts are also likely to be helpful.

Practice Questions:

Practice questions will be available online. We will go over these questions in office hours and in the problem sessions. Your best practice for the exams is to try these questions yourself first.

Preliminary Course Outline:

1. Introduction
 - Ch. 12: Intro.
 - 12.1: Sample Applications.
 - 12.2: Graphical Illustration of Nonlinear Programming Problems.
 - 12.3: Types of Nonlinear Programming Problems.
2. Concavity and Convexity
 - Appendix 2: Convexity.
 - Appendix 3: Classical Optimization Methods.
3. Unconstrained Optimization
 - 12.4: One-variable Unconstrained Optimization.
 - 12.5: Multivariable Unconstrained Optimization.
4. Equality Constrained Optimization
 - Briefly covered in readings for Introduction and Concavity and Convexity.
5. Inequality Constrained Optimization (KKT)
 - 12.6: The Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) Conditions for Constrained Optimization.
 - 12.7 Quadratic Programming.
 - 12.8 Separable Programming.
 - 12.9: Convex Programming.
 - 12.10: Nonconvex Programming (with Spreadsheets).
6. Dynamic Programming
 - 10.1: A Prototype Example for Dynamic Programming.
 - 10.2: Characteristics of Dynamic Programming Problems.
 - 10.3: Deterministic Dynamic Programming.
 - 10.4: Probabilistic Dynamic Programming.
7. Search Models
8. Inventory Models – Ch 18: Inventory Theory.