

Econ 100B, Intermediate Microeconomics

Course Information

- Lecture time and place:
 - **TTh, 12:30-1:50pm, Center Hall #115** (sections A01-965458 and A02-965459)
 - **TTh, 2-3:20pm, Center Hall #115** (sections B01- 965461 and B02- 965462)
- Preferred mode of contact for any questions about the class: Spring2019micro@gmail.com
- Instructor: Oana Tocoian, PhD
 - Email contact for any personal issues: otocoian@ucsd.edu
 - Office hours: Thursday 3:40-5:30pm in the Economics building #110B, or by appointment.
- Course description:
 - This is the second class in the Intermediate Microeconomics sequence, so you need to have taken Econ 100A. We will introduce the theory of the firm and markets when there is price taking behavior. Topics include the theory of production, commodity supply and input demand in competitive markets, and competitive market equilibrium.

Webpage and Required Materials

- Class webpage: TritonEd ("Blackboard"). All relevant info and links to resources will be here.
- Textbook: Hal Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus* (same textbook as 100A)
- iClicker – register it for this class on TritonEd.

Grade Composition

Your grade will be based on the best of two scores, as shown below under option 1 and option 2.

	<u>Option 1</u>	<u>Option 2</u>
• Quiz submission	5%	5%
• Attendance/in-class answers	5%	5%
• Midterms	2 × 25%	highest midterm × 30%
• Final	40%	60%

More details on grading are included later in the syllabus (pages 2 and 3).

Teaching Assistants and Additional Resources

- **TA discussion sections:**
 - **Wed 6-6:50pm, 7-7:50pm**, in [CSB](#) 001 (Cognitive Science Building)
 - **Tue 7-7:50pm, 8-8:50pm** in CSB 001
 - You can attend any TA section. If the room gets too crowded, we may revise this policy.
- **TA office hours** will be in the **Problem Solving and Economics Tutoring lab (PSET)**
 - **5:30-8:30pm M-TH and Sunday 4-8pm** in Econ 200, starting in week 2.
 - We will also keep an up-to-date class [calendar](#) with all office hours and discussion sections
- **TAs and Readers:**
 - Zhiyun Jiang (zhj062@ucsd.edu), Parker Rogers (parogers@ucsd.edu), Hao Yu (hay156@ucsd.edu), Yu-Chang Chen (yuc391@ucsd.edu), Danil Dmitriev (ddmitrie@ucsd.edu), Daniel Acevski (dacevski@ucsd.edu), Aleksandr Levkun (alevkun@ucsd.edu) Stefan Faridani (sfaridan@ucsd.edu), Vinny Alladi (valladi@ucsd.edu), Amanda Bauer (agbauer@ucsd.edu)

- Supplemental Instruction
 - The Academic Achievement Hub (AAH) in the Teaching + Learning Commons will be offering study group sessions for Econ 100B, on Fridays 11am-12:20pm in Teachings and Learning Commons (Geisel Library West 1st Floor), beginning on April 5th.
 - These sessions are open to all students and there is no sign up required. You also do not have to stay for the whole duration: you can come and go as you as it suits your schedule.
 - Kaiwen (Kevin) Li (kal178@ucsd.edu) will lead the study sessions this quarter. For more information, see this [webpage](#) or contact Kevin directly.
- *Piazza* – online discussion board (the [link](#) to register is on TritonEd).
 - We will use Piazza for class discussion: it is designed to get you help quickly and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and myself. Don't be shy about answering questions if you think you know the answer. It's a great way to strengthen your understanding. The top contributors (as measured primarily through instructor-endorsed answers) will receive bonus points – between 0.5 and 2 points on a 100-point scale.
- Additional online resources are linked on TritonEd (in "Resources"), with the following two being most important:
 - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (**IMVH**)
 - Mark Machina's *Math Handout*

GRADING

As shown on page 1, the bulk (90%) of your grade will be determined by your score on exams. The additional 10% are "free" points that you can secure simply by attending class and submitting quizzes.

You should think of the option 1 grading method as the default, with option 2 being present as a form of insurance against doing particularly poorly on a midterm. At the end of the quarter I will compute both versions and choose the highest one for you – there is no need to explicitly request one or the other. Grades will then be curved if the median score is too low (there will be no curving *down*).

Note: there will be some opportunities to earn extra credit (e.g. through Piazza). These bonus points are limited and will only be applied *after* I have "curved" scores, so that a student who doesn't earn any extra points will not be negatively affected in any way by the fact that others have.

Exam schedule: ← note that midterms are in the evening

- Midterm 1 – Tuesday, **Apr 23rd, 8-9:20pm** (YORK 2622 & 2722)
- Midterm 2 – Tuesday, **May 14th, 8-9:20pm** (YORK 2622 & 2722)
- Final:
 - Section A (12:30pm lecture): Monday, June 10, 11:30am-2:30pm, location TBD
 - Section B (2pm lecture): Tuesday, June 11, 3-6pm, location TBD

Exam policies

- Exams are closed book and notes – just bring your ID, pen/pencil and a non-graphing calculator. See TritonEd for full exam policies.
- Any regrade requests have to be placed within one week after the score is available, and a small penalty is associated with frivolous requests. Be sure to read the full regrade policy on the TritonEd page first.
- There will be no rescheduled or make-up exams

- If you miss a midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, the score from the final will be used instead of that midterm.
- Unexcused absences will result in a zero (under option 1).

Problem sets and quizzes

By the end of each week, I will post a problem set that covers that week's material. You should start working to solve it on your own or with a study group, and note any parts where you either get stuck or have questions. Your TA will also help lead you through the problems during discussion the following week. The answer key will be posted by Friday evening.

The quiz will typically be available on TritonEd from Sunday at 8pm until Monday at 5:30pm. (If you need earlier access, let me know.) The quiz will be timed in order to simulate a test environment, but you can keep working after time expires without any penalty. The quiz will have some problems similar to the ones on the problem set, as well as some questions from more recently covered material.

You need to take the quiz by yourself, without consulting with any classmates, or getting early access to the problems. (However, you can use class materials such as notes or answer keys.) If you take the quiz early, be mindful about talking about it in front of classmates who may have not submitted theirs yet.

The quiz will not be graded – you will get full points simply for completing it. Please attempt all problems. If you have no idea how to solve a problem, just enter “don't know”, or 3.14 if a number is required. A score will be automatically generated, but I will not use it in grade calculations. However, I may use the average for each quiz to get an idea of how the class is doing, so please follow the rules.

You have to submit all the quizzes in order to get full credit. If you forget to take one before the deadline, you can just complete it late. If you forget more than once, you'll get a late penalty.

Attendance/in-class answers

During most classes, I will ask you to answer questions using your iClicker. You can win **1 point per class for attendance**. Some questions will also be scored, and you can win up to **0.5 points per class by answering correctly**. The questions that are graded will be clearly marked.

I will scale the points so that if you attend *every* lecture you can get full credit even if you don't answer *any* of the questions correctly. Conversely, if you answer every question correctly, you can miss up to 1/3 of lectures without penalty.

If forget your iClicker one day or it doesn't work, you can **fill out [this form](#)** within the following 2 days to get attendance credit. If during a given class I do not ask any clicker questions, that lecture will simply not enter the score calculation (and you should *not* fill out the form for that day).

I will ask you to consult with your neighbors to answer some of the questions. If I don't specify that you should do so, I am expecting you to answer independently.

Class participation

Please **ask and answer questions** in class, and try to speak loudly (I have poor hearing). If you feel uncomfortable speaking up, push yourself to do it anyway. Participation is essential to good learning, and speaking in public is a useful skill – now is a good time to get some practice.

Furthermore, I will sometimes make mistakes (purposefully or not), or claim things that don't make sense or are not grounded in previous assertions. **I am expecting you to raise objections**. Students who repeatedly catch mistakes or inconsistencies will earn my respect and possibly extra credit.

Sometimes I may say outrageous things simply because the theories we cover make extreme simplifying assumptions. You should still voice your concerns, since it's important to examine the limitations of our analysis.

Office hours invitation

Many of you never come to see me, which is a shame. Over the course of the quarter, I will *randomly* select groups of students and ask them to come by, to introduce themselves to me and to each other. I hope this will encourage you to come in when you have questions in the future, and to collaborate with more of your classmates.

Future opportunities:

- **100BH:** If you earn an A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100BH in Winter 2020. Honors classes are capped at 20 students and you will get to know the faculty member well (important for getting informed letters of recommendation). These classes typically have you give a short presentation and write a short paper. Presenting and writing in the major are two valuable skills that are challenging for us to offer in large classes.

Other administrative issues

- If you have a disability, please register with the Office for Students with Disability and bring your documentation to Brittany Thompson (in Sequoyah Hall 245) and me as soon as possible. More information available here: <https://bit.ly/2Qi1js5>
- Deadline to change grade option or drop w/o "W": April 26; drop w/o "F" through May 10th
- UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.

Tentative schedule – check TritonEd for up-to-date version

Part I: Technology and Cost

Weeks 1-3:

- Lectures 1-3: Production and technology (textbook ch 19; IMVH videos: D1)
- Lecture 4: Long Run Cost Minimization (ch 21; videos: D2, a-h)
- Lectures 5-6: Cost Functions (ch 22; videos: D2, i-l)

Midterm 1: Tuesday Apr 23rd, 8-9:20pm (same day as lecture 7)

Part II: Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply

Weeks 4-6 (lectures 7-12)

- Profit Maximization (ch 20; videos: D3, a-d)
- Deriving the Firm's Supply Curve and Factor Demands (ch 23; videos D3, h-k)
- Industry Supply & Market Equilibrium (ch 24; videos D3,h-j; **E1, a-d**)

Midterm 2: Tuesday May 14th, 8-9:20pm (same day as lecture 13)

Part III: Applications of Partial Equilibrium; General Equilibrium

Weeks 7-10: ch 32-33; videos **E1, e-j; E2 a-m**

(more detailed breakdown to be posted)