

Economics 100C Honors

Spring 2021

Course Meetings

This course will be taught remotely at the scheduled class time. We will use Zoom.

Wednesday 2:00 - 2:50 PM.

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/93508379858?pwd=eXE1aUxiRUh5eWhxSzVNVGNmZDA5dz09>

Meeting ID: 935 0837 9858

Password: 100CSP21

Instructors

Professor: Judson Boomhower (jboomhower@ucsd.edu).

Graduate Student Instructor (TA): Angela Gu (aygu@ucsd.edu).

Email policy: For almost all course-related emails, contact Angela. If you have a sensitive issue, you can email the professor directly.

Professor Office Hours: Monday 5:00 - 6:00 PM and by appointment.

<https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/94834962713?pwd=RyttMWZGQktrTlNVKzlSc2kwbDhtZz09>

Meeting ID: 948 3496 2713

Password: 100CSP21

Overview

This honors section accompanies Economics 100C and meets once a week in seminar format. We will read and discuss scholarly articles that apply the analytical tools from 100C to economic and societal questions. These topics will include monopoly and oligopoly, externalities, imperfect information, and other topics. As a companion to the 100 series the issues and papers we discuss will be micro- rather than macro-economic, but otherwise explore a range of topics in economics.

Course Structure and Requirements

Each week, the class will be organized around 1-2 articles. I expect you to read these articles before class and come prepared with thoughts and questions for discussion. By 1:00 pm on each Wednesday (starting on April 7), you will submit (via Canvas) a 1-paragraph (150 words maximum) summary of the required readings and how they are related to the topics covered in 100C. These summaries will be graded for completion. Doing them will count for one-third (33%) of your course grade.

Another one-third (33%) of your course grade will depend on attendance and participation in class. It will not be enough to simply skim the articles quickly: you should read carefully and be prepared to discuss the authors' arguments critically. At the beginning of each class, I will use a random number generator to select one student. I will ask this student to briefly describe what the paper is about and why it is relevant for our understanding of the topics from 100C. For fairness, once a student has been randomly selected once, I will not include them in the drawing in future weeks. Also, if you are having an emergency or have some other issue in a given week, you may contact me before class to let me know that I should remove you from the random number pool for that week with no questions asked. (Please let me know if this policy creates issues for you).

The final one-third (34%) of your course grade will come from a short discussion paper (1,000 - 1,200 words). You will choose one of the readings to write about. These papers will be due on the last day of class, and I will give you more information about this assignment later in the quarter. The ability to express your thoughts clearly in speaking and writing is essential in almost all directions you may take after UCSD: I hope this course will offer some preparation and guidance along both dimensions.

Other Administrative Issues

1. If you require accomodation for a documented disability, please send 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 need accommodation, the Office for Students with Disabilities can help you get the help you need.
2. All written work that you submit for this class must be your own work. Any student found responsible for violating UCSD's academic integrity policy will earn a failing grade for the course and will be referred to the university for appropriate disciplinary action.

Course Readings

Note: If you have trouble accessing the readings electronically, please email Angela.

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| April 7 | Leape, Jonathan. 2006. The London Congestion Charge. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 20(4) 157-176. https://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.20.4.157 . |
| April 14 | Basker, Emek. 2007. The Causes and Consequences of Wal-Mart's Growth. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 21(3) 177-198. https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.21.3.177 |
| April 21 | Leslie, Philip. 2004. Price Discrimination in Broadway Theater. <i>The RAND Journal of Economics</i> 35(3) 520-541. https://www.jstor.org/stable/1593706 |
| April 28 | Lee, Kenneth, Edward Miguel, and Catherine Wolfram. 2020. Experimental Evidence on the Economics of Rural Electrification. <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 128:4 1523-1565. https://doi.org/10.1086/705417 |
| May 5 | Rabin, Matthew. 1993. Incorporating Fairness into Game Theory and Economics. <i>The American Economic Review</i> 83(5): 1281- 1302. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2117561 |
| May 12 | Spar, Debora L. 2006. Continuity and Change in the International Diamond Market. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 20(3) 195-208. https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.20.3.195 |
| May 19 | Borenstein, Severin, and Andrea Shepard. 1996. Dynamic Pricing in Retail Gasoline Markets. <i>The RAND Journal of Economics</i> 27(3) 429-51. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2555838 |
| May 26 | Currie, Janet, and Reed Walker. 2011. Traffic Congestion and Infant Health: Evidence from E-ZPass. <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , 3(1) 65-90. https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/app.3.1.65 |
| June 2 | Ringleb, Al and Steven Wiggins. 1990. Liability and Large-Scale, Long-Term Hazards. <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> 98(3) 574-595. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2937700 |