

ECON 100B – Intermediate Microeconomics, Syllabus

Course Information

- **Lecture schedule:** Mon/Wed/Fri, 12-12:50pm (The Jeannie auditorium and [Zoom](#))
- 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, modeling costs, commodity supply in competitive markets, competitive market equilibrium, and general equilibrium analysis.
- TA-led discussion sections: (you can attend any of them, regardless of section)
 - Mon 3, 4, 5pm – MOS 0204 and/or Zoom
 - Wed 3, 4pm – MOS 0204 and/or Zoom
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) study group sessions:
 - Mon 10-11:30am – [Zoom link](#)
 - Tue 2-3:20pm – TLC 1504 (Geisel library)

Teaching team:

- Dr. Oana Tocoian
 - Office hours – Monday 1:30-2:30pm (hybrid: Warren Mall outdoor study area and on [Zoom](#))
 - Email: Econ100B.Tocoian@gmail.com (also monitored by TAs)
 - Always email us from your UCSD account.
 - I do NOT recommend using the Canvas Inbox.
- Teaching Assistants:
 - Jordi Martinez-Munoz, Jay Cizeski, Ziqi Chen, Bei Luo, Joe Fitz
 - TA office hours on [Zoom](#): Tue 11am (Ziqi) & Fri 3pm (Bei);
 - TA office hours in person: Thu 2:30pm in Warren Mall (Joe)
- Readers: Torsha Chakravorty, Aakash Bhalothia, Yashna Nandan (no direct contact outside of proctoring)
- Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader: Shane Nordquist (contact directly at snordqui@ucsd.edu)

Webpage and Materials

- The class webpage is on Canvas: <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/35571> - check it often
 - All relevant info, resources, and updates will be posted on or linked through here.
- Textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach: 1st Edition* by Hal Varian
 - I strongly recommend getting the textbook if you don't have it yet, but you can use *any format* you like, including paper or electronic file, as we will *not* be using an online textbook portal. (Just make sure you get the "with calculus" edition.)
- Additional resources are on (or linked through) the Canvas page. These include: Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook ([IMVH](#)), Mark Machina's *Math Handout*
- The discussion board will be on Discord (invite link: <https://discord.gg/MyW2MGF7zu>). It's okay to use a non-UCSD email for this, and remember you can set server-specific nicknames. If you don't appear with your real name but want to be considered for potential extra credit, send an email from your school account to Econ100B.Tocoian@gmail.com with the subject line "Discord name: [nickname]".

Grade Composition

- Your total score will be the highest of the following 3 options:

	A	B	C
• Midterm1 (Wed, Apr 20)	25%	--	35%
• Midterm 2 (Wed, May 18)	30%	40%	--
• Final (cumulative – Wed, June 8)	45%	60%	65%

(We will select the best option for you.)

- Individual exams are not assigned a grade, but they may be adjusted if the median is below 70. The total score is calculated by using the (possibly adjusted) exam scores, then it is curved up if appropriate.

Exams

- All exams will be held in person and will be closed-notes.
 - Midterms will be 45 mins long and take place during class, on the Wednesday of weeks 4 and 8 (see the "[Calendar and lecture notes](#)" page).
 - The final is at the date and time listed in the schedule of classes (June 8, 12-2pm).
- You will each be assigned a specific seat for each exam. Bring only your student ID, writing tools, and a basic calculator (scientific calculator without graphing or calculus capabilities is also okay).
- You are allowed to miss at most one midterm – its weight will be shifted as shown above.
- There are no make-up exams.

Problem sets

There will be weekly problem sets, but you will **not** turn them in or receive credit. Solving problems is the best way to prepare for exams. I recommend working in study groups and using Discord as a resource to discuss the problems and get help from others.

Participation and extra credit

Synchronous attendance is *not required*, but it is *strongly recommended*. Providing helpful answers or initiating relevant discussions on Discord will count towards extra credit, as will class participation (when in person, try to sit in the same spot, and introduce yourself during or after lecture). Extra credit is applied after total scores are computed and grade cutoffs have been established, so as not to affect the curve. It is usually 1-2% (up to 3% for top contributions), but earning it is likely to give your exam scores a bigger *direct* boost, since discussing problems with your classmates is an excellent way to learn.

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 (follow up with the Economics department to confirm when it will next be offered). 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.

Accommodation for disabilities

If you have a disability, please contact [OSD](#) and follow their guidance. Department contact: econosd@ucsd.edu.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Any suspected violations *will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and can result in sanctions – including an F in this class, suspension or dismissal from the University*. Examples of academic dishonesty include:

- Having another person take an exam for you or give you the answers
- Using unauthorized materials in an exam (e.g. electronics, lecture notes)
- Lying about having taken an exam

If you are not sure whether something is permitted, ASK!

Schedule of topics

For the detailed up-to-date schedule, with assigned IMVH videos and textbook chapters, follow the link on the course Canvas page, or go directly to: <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/35571/pages/topics-and-assigned-videos>

Part I: Technology and Cost (~weeks 1-3)

Part II: Profit Maximization and Competitive Supply (~weeks 4-6)

Part III: Applications of Partial Equilibrium analysis (~weeks 7-8)

Part IV: General Equilibrium (~weeks 9-10)