

Economics 100A: Microeconomics

Syllabus and Reading List

This course is the first half of the upper division core Microeconomics sequence. It covers a number of topics including consumer and demand theory, firm, production and cost theory, and the theory of competitive markets.



Texts:

- Walter Nicholson, *Microeconomic Theory*, Eighth Edition, Southwestern, 2002



All course information will be available on the course World Wide Web site at URL <http://iacs5.ucsd.edu/~ec100a>.

The class web site will also contain frequently updated information about the course, including announcements, homework assignments & answer keys and practice exam questions. Additionally, students are encouraged to use any e-mail account to communicate privately with me at ec100a@iacs5.ucsd.edu, the T.A. and with other students. You can find e-mail addresses of the T.A.'s and all registered students on the [Class Roster](#)



Exams and Grades:

A midterm exam will be given on Monday, February 10, from 8:00 - 10:00 pm in Center Hall 101. The final will be given on Wednesday, March 19th, 2003, from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The midterm will constitute about 40% of your grade and the final about 60%. Homework problems will be assigned approximately weekly, but they will not be graded. They will be discussed, however, in sections that will be run by the T.A.'s on Wednesday and Friday. There are four (4) Sections scheduled -- at 12:00 and 3:00 on Wednesday in Peterson 102 and at 9:00 and 1:00 on Friday in Peterson 103 and 102 respectively. *All students are encouraged to attend one section a week* to go over homework problems, to review mathematical prerequisite (largely calculus), and discuss sample exam questions.



Office Hours:

My office hours for this course will be on Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:00 pm and also by appointment. My office is room 317 of the Economics building. I can also be reached by electronic mail to ask questions, set up an appointment, and the like. You can send e-mail to my course address ec170a@iacs5.ucsd.edu. I strongly encourage you to make use of this way of communicating with me.



Teaching Assistants:

This course will have four teaching assistants. The TAs will hold section meetings and office hours to discuss the homework (and other problems), and will help grade course exams. For times of all section

meetings and office hours see Sections and Office Hours.

See Office Hours for details.



Calendar

Lecture Dates, Topics, and Reading Assignments:

- **January 7 & 9: Introduction**

- Nicholson, Chapter 1, "Economic Models"
- Nicholson, Chapter 2, "The Mathematics of Optimization (REVIEW)"

- **January 14 & 16: Choice and Demand: I**

- Nicholson, Chapter 3, "Preferences and Utility"
- Nicholson, Chapter 4, "Utility Maximization and Choice"

- **January 21 & 23: Choice and Demand: II**

- Nicholson, Chapter 5, "Income and Substitution Effects"

- **January 28, & 30: Choice and Demand: III**

- Nicholson, Chapter 6, "Demand Relationships Among Goods"
- Nicholson, Chapter 7, "Market Demand and Elasticity"

- **February 4 & 6: Production and Supply: I**

- Nicholson, Chapter 11, "Production Functions"

- **February 10: Mid-Term Exam: 8:00 - 10:00 PM Center Hall 101 (Note Room!)**



- **February 11 & 13: Production and Supply: II**

- Nicholson, Chapter 12, "Costs"

- **February 18 & 20: Production and Supply: III**

- Nicholson, Chapter 13, "Profit Maximization and Supply"

- **February 25 & 27: Perfect Competition: I**

- Nicholson, Chapter 14, "The Partial Equilibrium and Competitive Model"

- Nicholson, Chapter 15, "Applied Competitive Analysis"

- **March 4 & 6: Perfect Competition: II**

- Nicholson, Chapter 16, "General Competitive Equilibrium"

- **March 11 & 13: Perfect Competition: III**

- Nicholson, Chapter 17, "The Efficiency of Perfect Competition"

- **March 19: Final Exam 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

