

ECONOMICS 100B: MICROECONOMICS

Winter 2005

TTh 2:00-3:20, Warren 2005

Professor

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Economics 126

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Course content: This course is the second part of a two-part upper division sequence in microeconomics. The topics covered include the theory of competitive markets, welfare analysis, imperfect competition, imperfect information, and externalities.

Prerequisites: You need to have taken the first part of this sequence (Economics 100A) in order to enroll. (You should also have taken Economics 1-2-3 and Mathematics 10/20A-B-C.)

Course website: The course website is accessible through my home page:
<http://Hweber.ucsd.edu/~jbcullen>. I will post lecture notes and other support materials there.

Requirements: There are three sets of requirements for this course:

1) Readings should be completed *before* the relevant class. The required text is Nicholson's *Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, 9th Edition (South-Western Educational Publishing), 2005. You are responsible for the material in the assigned parts of the text. The bookstore also has copies of the accompanying workbook (*Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*) that you may find to be a useful tool to test your understanding of the material.

2) Weekly problem sets are found on the Aplia website. These assignments will collectively count for 15% of your grade. I will drop your two lowest scores (in terms of the fraction of questions answered correctly) when calculating this part of your grade.

Many assignments come in pairs of practice and graded problem sets. The practice sets give you immediate feedback about whether your answer is right or wrong and an explanation of the correct answer. They are not counted as part of your homework grade. Use them to check your understanding of the material. If you are confident, you can go directly to the graded problem set, and refer back to the practice set only if you want some additional help.

The graded problem sets have a firm due date. You can change your answers as many times as you like before the due date has passed. Once the due date has passed, the grade will be recorded and it will not be possible to change your answers or complete the assignment at this point. Do the assignments early to avoid any emergencies preventing your completion before the due date. After the due date, you will be able to see the correct answers and the explanations for graded problems.

The cost of Aplia is \$21 per student for the quarter. You may register and use the website until 01/24/05 without paying the fee. If you are considering dropping this course during the drop/add period, do not make a payment until you are sure. You will need to pay the full amount before the end of the grace period to continue using the site. You may pay online with a credit card, or you can mail a check or money order to the address provided on the Aplia site.

Here are the steps to register at the Aplia site (you only need to register once):

1. Connect to <http://econ.aplia.com>.
2. Complete the Configuration Test. You must have JavaScript and Flash 6 or later to use the site. If you don't, the configuration test will tell you and instructions will follow.
3. Return to the Sign in page and click "Register here".
4. You will be prompted to enter your e-mail address and select a password.
5. You will then be asked to enter your course key (FGGE-NVNF-9HAS).
6. Before entering your course, you will be prompted for payment. There is a 20 day grace period for this course. If your payment has not been received by 01/24/05, you will not be able to access the site until Aplia receives your payment.

For technical problems or problems signing in, please send Aplia an e-mail by clicking on the "Help" link in the upper-right corner of any page or by e-mailing support@aplia.com.

3) Two exams-a midterm and a final. The midterm will be held during the regular class period. The final will be cumulative. There will be no make-up exams.

Midterm: Thursday February 3 (in class)	35
Final exam: Thursday March 17 (3-6 pm)	%
	50
	%

Course outline

~	<u>Chapter in text</u>
Demand and supply	3-5, 7-9 (suggested for review)
Partial equilibrium competitive model	
Applied competitive analysis	
General equilibrium and welfare	12
Monopoly	13
Imperfect competition	14
Game theory models of pricing	15
Uncertainty and risk aversion	18
Economics of information Externalities	19
and public goods	20