

ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS, Part A (#550085)

Winter 2006, Center Hall 101, T-TH 3:30-4:50

Lecturer: Dr. Melissa Famulari

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Office: Economics 221

Office Hours: Friday 10:00-1:00

Teaching Assistants:

(1) Michael Madrid mmadrid@ucsd.edu

Office: Sequoyah Hall 208

Office Hours: M-W 11:30-12:30

(2) Jaime Thomas jlthomas@econ.ucsd.edu

Office: Sequoyah Hall 238

Office Hours: T-TH 2:00-3:00

(3) Oana Tocoian otocoian@ucsd.edu

Office: Econ 127

Office Hours: W 1:30-3:30

Prerequisites: Econ 3 and Math 10/20 ABC.

Assessment: There are two in class midterm exams, **Tuesday, January 31** and **Thursday, February 23**, each of which is worth 25% of your grade. The final exam is cumulative and is worth 50% of your grade. The final is **Friday, March 24 from 3:00-6:00pm**.

Course Objectives: This course is the first part of a two-part upper division sequence in microeconomics. We will study (1) consumer choice over current commodities, current commodities or leisure time, and current commodities or future commodities. We will derive the consumer's demand for today's goods, the supply of labor (demand for leisure), and the supply of capital (demand for future goods) (2) resource cost and firm production, and (3) the theory of competitive markets. Compared to Econ 1, Econ 100A emphasizes mathematical modeling in developing the theory.

Course Materials:

Text: Walter Nicholson, *Microeconomic Theory*, 9th ed. (South-Western, Thompson Learning, Inc., 2005). The book is available at the bookstore. There is also a study guide by David Stapleton, *Study Guide to Accompany Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions*, that I think is very useful (but it is not required for the course).

Additional Readings: There are many textbooks you can use to supplement Nicholson.

Another calculus-based intermediate textbook is Varian. One free option is Professor Preston McAfee's (Caltech) introductory textbook on the web <http://www.introecon.com/>. The level of this book is in between Econ 1 and Econ 100A. It is very interesting, free, and you may find it useful.

Mathematics Tutorial for Economists: Written by Professor Martin Osborne (University of

Toronto) <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/osborne/MathTutorial/index.html>, Chapters 1-6 of this will help you review the calculus tools that you learned in Math 10ABC or 20ABC that are the most important for this course.

WebCT: This is where you access the syllabus, class handouts, a discussion board, your grades, etc.

Review Sessions: In addition to office hours and class, here is another time where you get help solving problems. Sessions will be Tuesday night (starting the 17th) from 7:00-8:30 in room XXX. The sessions will be conducted alternately by Michael and Oana.

Administrative Issues:

- (1) The undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245, Kimberley Newmark and Mya Anderson, handle all matters related to dropping or adding the course, waitlists, etc.
- (2) You will only need a pen or pencil for exams. Exams are closed book: you may not use any notes, electronic devices, books or consult other classmates.
- (3) I report all cases of academic dishonesty. If you have any doubts about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please review UCSD policy at <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.
- (4) If there is a mistake adding up the points on your exam, bring it to my attention and I will correct it immediately.
- (5) If you believe an exam has not been graded properly, you must submit the test for a re-grade within 2 class periods from when we return the exam. I will then re-grade your entire exam. The re-graded midterm score will be your grade for the exam. You may not ask for another re-grade or go back to your first grade.
- (6) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation and come to talk to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you may have a disability and will desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities, Building 202 University Center as soon as possible. For information on the steps for academic accommodation, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app3.htm>.

To prepare you for 100B, we will complete the material I have listed below. The dates for the readings below are my best guess. The exact pace of the course depends to some extent on you and your classmates. I will update the syllabus if needed during the quarter.

Week	Nicholson Chapter	Topic
(1) 1/10	1 & 2	Intro and math review
(2) 1/17	3 & 4	Preferences, utility and choice
(3) 1/24	5 & 6	Comparative statics
(4) 1/31		Midterm 1: Tuesday, January 31
(5) 2/7	477-485 & 500-506	Supply of factors of production (labor and capital)
(6) 2/14	7	Theory of production
(7) 2/21	8	Theory of cost Midterm 2: Thursday, February 23
(8) 2/28	9	Profit maximization
(9) 3/7	10	Partial equilibrium with perfectly competitive markets

(10) 3/14	No new readings	
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Final Exam: March 24, 3:00-6:00pm