

ECONOMICS 100B: MICROECONOMICS, Part B
Winter 2008-2009

Lecture 1 (B00): Tues, Thurs 3:30pm-5:00pm CENTR 216
Lecture 2 (C00): Tues, Thurs 5:00pm-6:20pm CENTR 101

Email: eco100b@gmail.com

*Please check **webct** regularly. It will contain handouts and announcements. For all correspondence, use the email address so that your questions may be answered promptly.*

Professor:

Nageeb Ali	snali@ucsd.edu	Office: ECON 214 OH: Thurs 2:00pm–3:00pm
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Teaching Assistants:

(1) David Kaplan	dkaplan@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 236 OH: Wed 2:00pm-3:00pm
(2) Chulyoung Kim	chk002@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 224 OH: Thurs 10:00am-11:00am
(3) Charles Lin	chl083@ucsd.edu	Office: ECON 124 OH: Tues 2:00pm-3:00pm
(4) Charles Sprenger	csprenge@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 207 OH: Mon 1:00pm-2:00pm
(5) Li Zhou	lzhou@ucsd.edu	Office: SEQ 227 OH: Fri 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Course Content

This is the second of three courses in microeconomics and will build on the material presented in Economics 100A. The principal themes of the course will be the theory of production and firms, the markets for factors of production, and the competitive equilibrium reached between producers and consumers in the economy. The class emphasizes mathematical analysis in developing the theory, but will also discuss real-world applications to demonstrate the usefulness and importance of the theory.

Prerequisites

You need to have taken the prerequisite courses listed in the UCSD catalog, and should be comfortable with microeconomics and calculus. Let me emphasize this point: if you

have trouble with basic calculus, this course may be inappropriate for you. *Talk to me at the beginning of the quarter if you are unsure about your preparation.*

Readings

Required Text: *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* (Perloff)
Chapters 6-10 and 15

Additional Readings: There are many textbooks you can use to supplement Perloff. Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks include Walter Nicholson's, *Microeconomic Theory*. One free option is an online introductory textbook written by Preston McAfee of Caltech <http://www.introecon.com/>. The level of this book is between Econ 1 and Econ 100A. It is very interesting, free, and you may find it useful.

Mathematics Tutorial for Economists: Written by Martin Osborne at the 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.

TA Sections

The TA's will lead two weekly discussion sections to review material from lecture, answer questions, and work on practice problems. It is important that you attend either (or both) of these sections.

TA section A: Tues 7:00pm-7:50pm, 8:00pm-8:50pm, both in SOLIS 104

TA section B: Wed 7:00pm-7:50pm, 8:00pm-8:50pm both in CENTER 101

Grading and Exams

There are two midterm exams, each of which is worth 25% of your grade. The final is cumulative and is worth 50% of your grade. The midterm exams and final are listed on the **UCSD course schedule**; here is the midterm schedule (for both sections):

Midterm 1: Monday, January 26 from 7pm-9pm in PETER 108.

Midterm 2: Monday, February 23 from 7pm-9pm in PETER 108.

Note: If you miss either midterm for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, then the other midterm will count for 1/3 of your grade and the final for 2/3 of your grade. If you do not have a verifiable reason for missing a midterm, you will receive a zero, no exceptions!! In the event that you miss a midterm, contact me immediately.

You will not be graded on attendance but of course are responsible for the announcements made and material presented during lecture.

I will also assign homework problem sets regularly. They will not be graded and you do not need to turn it in. However, *you are strongly urged to take them seriously and attempt all assigned problems*. The TA's will go over solutions during their weekly sections.

Succeeding in the Course

Doing well in this course requires you to attend lectures, sections, read the textbook, and practice solving problems. Problem-solving is the only way to succeed. Glancing at the solution to a problem and just verifying if you understand it is not enough; you must try and solve the problem yourself before checking the solution. I encourage you to attempt solving as many problems as you can on the topics we cover. These include the homework problems I assign and the end of chapter exercises in the Perloff textbook. The TA's will work through the exercises in their sections; this will be most beneficial to you only if you have already attempted some on your own first.

To sum up: unless you learn to solve problems on your own, you will have difficulty in the exams. The only way to acquire this skill is through practice.

Administrative Issues

1. 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 have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. For information on the steps for academic accommodation, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app3.htm>.
2. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this academic sanction that I will impose, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty. For UCSD policy, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.
3. You will only need a pen or pencil for exams. Exams are closed book and you may not use notes, electronic devices (including calculators, headphones, cell phones), books or consult other classmates. Also, if you use a pencil for your exam, you will not be able to request a re-grade.
4. If you arrive late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in his/ her exam and left the room*. Once someone has turned in an exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.
5. If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must first discuss this with a TA for the course. If after talking to the TA, you would like to have your exam re-graded, you must submit a re-grade request to me *within 7 days*

from when exams were returned to the class. You must explain clearly why you believe your score is in error. I will then discuss the question with the TA, go over the *entire exam* and change your score *either up or down* as is necessary: you cannot have me re-grade only part of the exam. You may not ask for another regrade or go back to your first grade. Hence, by submitting a re-grade request, you risk having your score decrease so consider the decision very carefully. Remember, if you use a pencil for your exam, you cannot request a re-grade.

6. UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245. The economics department does not allow late additions (additions after the second week) to any class.

Schedule of Topics and Lectures

Dates	Topics	Chapters
Jan 6, 8, and 13	Firms and Production	6
Jan 15, 20, and 22	Theory of Costs	7
Jan 26	Midterm	
Jan 29, Feb 3, and 5	Competitive Firms and Markets	8
Feb 10, 12, and 17	Applications of Competitive Model	9
Feb 19	General Equilibrium and Economic Welfare	10
Feb 23	Midterm	
Feb 24, Mar 3 and 5	General Equilibrium and Economic Welfare	10
Mar 10	Factor Markets	15
Mar 12	Review for Final Exam	