

## Econ 100A, Intermediate Microeconomics

### Course Information

- Lectures: **MWF 9-9:50am, Solis Hall #104**
- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian ([otocoian@ucsd.edu](mailto:otocoian@ucsd.edu))
  - Office hours: Mon and Fri 10-11am in the Economics building #110B
- TAs:
  - Alexander Weiss ([amweiss@ucsd.edu](mailto:amweiss@ucsd.edu))
  - Camila Navajas Ahumada ([cnavajas@ucsd.edu](mailto:cnavajas@ucsd.edu))
  - Hao Yu ([hay156@ucsd.edu](mailto:hay156@ucsd.edu)) – undergraduate TA
- Course description:
  - As the first class in the micro sequence, Econ 100A is designed to teach you how to set up, solve and analyze optimization models and apply these mathematical models to the theory of the consumer (commodity demand, labor supply and consumption/savings decisions). Finally, we will examine the fundamentals of decision making under risk and uncertainty.
  - Prerequisites: Econ 1 and one year of calculus (Math 10C, 20C, or 21C).

### Webpage and Required Materials

- Class webpage: [TritonEd](#) (“Blackboard”).
  - All relevant info will be posted here and all other resources will be linked through here.
- Textbook: Hal Varian, *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus* – \$78.75 at the UCSD bookstore.
- iClicker – register it for this class on TritonEd.
- Additional resources are linked on TritonEd, with the following two being most important:
  - Mark Machina’s *Math Handout*
  - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook.

### Discussion sections and other study resources

- **TA discussion sections:**
  - Wed 4-4:50, 5-5:50pm, in Pepper Canyon Hall (PCYNH) #121
  - TAs will generally work through problem sets (or similar problems) and answer your questions. At times, they will clarify or expand upon concepts we covered in class.
  - Although attendance will not be taken, the discussion sections are mandatory in the sense that you are responsible for the content covered.
- **TA office hours** will be part of the **Problem Solving and Economics Tutoring lab (PSET)**
  - **5:30-8:30pm M-TH and Sunday 4-8pm** in Econ 200, starting in week 2.
  - Aside from your TAs, other graduate and top undergraduate students will be there to answer your questions and help you along as you work on your problem set. More info here: <http://economics.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/courses/pset-lab.html>
- Supplemental instruction **tutoring sessions** are on Thursdays, 5-6:20pm in [TLC](#) 1504 (in Geisel)
- **Piazza** – online discussion board (the [link](#) to register is on TritonEd).
  - We will use Piazza for class discussion: it is designed to get you help quickly and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and myself. Don’t be shy about answering questions if you think you know the answer. It’s a great way to strengthen your understanding. If you are in the top 25% of “good answerers” in the course you can even earn bonus points (around 1-2 points on a 100-point scale).

### Grade composition

Your grade will be based on the best of two scores, computed as shown below under option 1 and option 2. (I will compute both and choose the highest one for you at the end of the quarter.)

	Option 1	Option 2
• Online quizzes*	5%	10%
• Attendance (out of 80% of lectures)	5%	
• Attendance (out of all lectures)		10%
• Midterms	2 × 25%	highest midterm × 25%
• Final	40%	55%

Grades will be curved if the average score is too low (there will be no curving *down*).

Notes:

\* I will drop the bottom quiz score from the total.

### Attendance

I will usually measure attendance by clicker answers. If you were present but forgot your clicker (or it malfunctioned, or you haven't bought it yet) you can still get attendance credit by coming over to tell me this right after class AND sending me an email with the subject "attendance Econ 100 on <date>". Having the electronic record makes it easy for me to correct your attendance score at the end of the quarter. If during a given class I do not ask any clicker questions or take attendance in some other obvious way, that lecture will simply not enter the score calculation (and I should not receive an email from you asking for attendance credit...)

### Problem sets and quizzes:

There will be *weekly problem sets* posted by Monday on TritonEd. During your discussion section, your TA will work through these problems, and we will post the answer key on the following Monday. You will not turn in these problem sets and they will not be graded. However, it is extremely important that you do them. Solving problems is the only way to truly learn economics, and they will be a crucial component of studying well. They will also help you do well on quizzes:

*Online quizzes* will be available on TritonEd Sundays at 4pm, and can be taken anytime between 4pm and midnight. Once you start the quiz you will have one hour to complete it. Some of the questions will test your understanding of important concepts covered in lecture, and others will be similar to problems in that week's set, so that you are likely to get much higher scores if you have solved that week's homework.

### Exam schedule:

- Midterm 1 – **Wed, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>**, in class
- Midterm 2 – **Wed, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**, in class
- Final: **Wed, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 8-11am**, location TBD

### Exam policies

- Exams are closed book and notes. A basic calculator is required (no graphing or calculus capabilities). There will be no bathroom breaks during mid-terms, and only between designated times during the final. If you arrive late, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in an exam and left the room*. Once a classmate has turned in an exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.

- Regrade requests:
  - Regrade period for midterm exams is 1 week after the exam is accessible on Gradescope
  - We reserve the right to deduct 1% of the exam score (per problem) for frivolous regrade requests (i.e. if no reasonable justification is provided).
- There will be no rescheduled or make-up exams
  - If you miss a midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, the score from the final will be used instead of that midterm.
  - Unexcused absences will result in a zero (under option 1).

Future opportunities:

- **100AH:** If you earn an A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100AH in the fall. 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. I recommend you take advantage of the 100AH opportunity.

Other administrative issues

- If you have a disability, please register with the Office for Students with Disability and bring your documentation to Brittany Thompson (in Sequoyah Hall 245) and me as soon as possible. More information available here: <https://bit.ly/2Qi1js5>
- Deadline to change grade option or drop w/o "W": Feb 1<sup>st</sup>; drop w/o "F" through Feb 15<sup>th</sup>
- Holidays: Monday Jan 21<sup>st</sup> (Martin Luther King Jr Day); Monday Feb 18 (Presidents' Day)
- UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Cheating will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be subjected to the disciplinary process. Students found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.