

ECON 100A – Intermediate Microeconomics, Syllabus

Course Information

All class meetings will be held on Zoom: to join, go to Zoom LTI Pro on the Canvas course page [\[link\]](#).

Lectures and discussion sessions (but NOT office hours) will be recorded and posted in Media Gallery.

- **Lectures:** **Mon & Wed at 5-6:20pm** (all times listed are Pacific Time Zone)
- Discussion sections: **Thursdays at 5pm, (6pm,) 7pm**
(These are repeated 50-minute sessions, and you can attend at either 5pm or 7pm. The 6pm slot will be used as office hours, so you can ask any follow-up questions you might have.)
- Supplemental Instruction: **Tuesdays 5-6:20pm** (starts Jan 5)
(This is a type of formal study group, organized through the Teaching & Learning Commons.)
- Office hours: **Wed 9am, Fri 5pm; extra hours scheduled before exams**
Office hours are subject to change – you can see upcoming sessions in Zoom LTI Pro in Canvas at any time. You can request additional office hours if none of those already scheduled work for you.

Teaching team:

- Dr. Oana Tocoian
 - Preferred contact for class-related questions: Econ100A.Tocoian@gmail.com
 - For personal or urgent issues, you can email me at: otocoian@ucsd.edu
(Email is preferred over Canvas messages.)
- Teaching Assistants
(will lead Thursday discussion sections in alternating weeks on Thursday evenings and will hold office hours)
 - Yuchang Chen yuc391@ucsd.edu
 - Zhiyun (Elaine) Jiang zhj062@ucsd.edu
 - Ishani Chatterjee ischatte@ucsd.edu
 - Jay Cizeski jcizeski@ucsd.edu
 - Hsu (Sam) Lin hsl009@ucsd.edu (undergraduate)
 - Kelvin Leong mleong@ucsd.edu (reader)
- Supplemental Instruction study group leader: Madison (Madi) Kha mkha@ucsd.edu
(will hold sessions Tuesdays at 5-6:20pm, <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/95994057435>)

Course description:

As the first class in the microeconomics 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 is on Canvas: <https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/22057>
 - All relevant info and resources will be posted or linked through here.
- Textbook: *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach: Media Update 1st Edition* by Varian
 - Your digital course materials are provided by the UC San Diego Bookstore through Canvas and are free for the first two weeks of classes. If you don't opt out by January 16th, your student account will be charged \$47. This textbook is also used for Econ 100B and 100C, and access lasts for 360 days.

For any questions about billing please contact textbooks@ucsd.edu.

For any questions about using your eBook please reference [RedShelf Solve](#).

- I strongly recommend buying the textbook (and I may assign some problems from it), but I will not require access to the online textbook resources, so you can use the book in any format (just make sure it is the “with calculus” edition)
- Additional resources are on (or linked through) the Canvas page. These include:
 - Mark Machina’s *Math Handout*
 - Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (IMVH) = a set of video lectures recorded by Professors at UCSD. I will assign some of these for you to watch each week.
 - Optional: (Piazza. Find our class page at: <https://piazza.com/ucsd/winter2021/econ100a>)
In class, a majority of students who expressed a preference for either one or the other, chose Discord over Piazza, so we can try using the following server for now, and transition back to Piazza if needed: <https://discord.gg/bzwxhBZevG> (thanks to Kurt for setting it up). Discord is more informal: it allows you to sign in with a non-UCSD email, which I suggest you take advantage of. If you anticipate contributing a lot and would like me to consider this towards potential extra credit, just let me know early on what your server nickname is (send an email with that info from your school account to econ100A.Tocoian@gmail.com and include “Discord name” in the subject line).

Grade composition

- The grade will be composed as follows:

○ Problem Sets	13%	(~7 total, graded on completion, score maxed out at 85%)
○ Rehearsal test	2%	(during week 3, details TBD)
○ Midterm 1	20%	Monday of week 4 @5:30pm
○ Midterm 2	25%	Monday of week 8 @5:30pm
○ Final	40%	Monday of finals week @7pm

Exams

The current plan is to rely on self-recorded individual Zoom sessions for proctoring. For the most up-to-date information, follow the corresponding link at the top of the course Canvas page.

- Tests will be no-collaboration and closed-book, except for one handwritten “cheat sheet”. You can also use one or two empty sheets of paper as scratch paper. You are not allowed to use a personal calculator or any other electronic devices aside from the computer on which you are taking the test
- You can use your phone to log into your exam Zoom meeting for extra security – just disconnect audio.
- I reserve the right to change the proctoring method for later exams if this becomes necessary.
- I also reserve the right to administer one-on-one tests (oral and written) in order to ensure academic integrity. This could include spot checks (2-3 questions) of a randomly drawn set of students, or full re-tests in cases where exam rules were not followed (but there isn’t evidence of cheating).

Problem sets (and videos):

Problem solving is essential in order to understand and absorb the material. There will be weekly problem sets, usually due by the end of the weekend (a little sooner right before exams). They will be graded on completion/ reasonable effort.

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.

List of topics

The current and upcoming topics will be posted in Canvas, along with the corresponding sections in the textbook and assigned IMVH videos. We will roughly cover the first 10 chapters in the textbook, as well as parts of chapters 14 and 12.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Any suspected violations *will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and can result in sanctions – including an F in this class, suspension or dismissal from the University. Examples of academic dishonesty include:*

- Having another person complete an assignment for you
- Using unauthorized materials in an exam (e.g. electronics, lecture notes)
- Lying about having taken an exam or completed an assignment
- Receiving or sharing information about the test before the instructor explicitly gives the okay (since some students may have to take the exam at a different time)

If you are not sure whether something is permitted, ASK!