

Intermediate Microeconomics
Econ 100B - Winter 2024
University of California, San Diego

Instructor: Aram Grigoryan, ag@ucsd.edu

In Person Office Hours: Thursday, 1-2pm, San Diego Supercomputer Center (SDSC)
173 E

Virtual Office Hours: (by request)

Zoom Link will be announced through canvas

TAs: Alec Hoover, alhoover@ucsd.edu. Annalise Storms, ankendrick@ucsd.edu. Artur Bayramyan, abayramy@ucsd.edu. Linchen Zhang, liz032@ucsd.edu.

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1 Course Structure and Materials

1.1 Lectures

The class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays,

DO0: 8:00 - 9:20am, Center Hall 115.

C00: 9:30 - 10:50am, Mosaic 0113.

The lectures will be your main resource for learning Econ 100B. Hence, attendance is crucial for understanding the material. For those who have to miss a class, one of the lectures (C00) will be podcasted.

1.2 Lecture Notes, Video Handout, and Textbook

Lecture Notes: Lecture notes will be distributed (before or after the relevant lectures). The lecture notes will not be as detailed as the lectures. However, they will include all the key concepts covered in class. Note taking during the lecture is not crucial, but of course, it is useful. I will give detailed references to relevant IMVH videos and the textbook as additional material. I encourage students to review them, especially if some parts of the lecture are not clear.

Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook (IMVH): The IMVH contains over 220 videos created by UC San Diego faculty on the 100ABC material. The videos in A, D, and E are relevant for 100B. IMVH videos can be access on Canvas -> Econ 100B -> Modules.

Textbook: Perloff, “Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus,” 5th edition.

Learning is most effective when students see versions of the same topic from different sources: lectures, IMVH, and textbook. Econ 100B is a challenging class, hence having multiple sources of information will be crucial for gaining a deeper understanding of the covered topics.

1.3 Discussion Sessions

Times and Locations:

D01: Wednesday, 6:00 - 6:50pm, PODEM 1A19

D02: Wednesday, 7:00 - 7:50pm, PODEM 1A19

C01: Tuesday, 7:00 - 7:50pm, WLH 2205

C02: Tuesday, 6:00 - 6:50pm, WLH 2205

C03: Thursday, 7:00 - 7:50pm, PETER 102

C04: Thursday, 8:00 - 8:50pm, PETER 102

The TAs will review some problems from the problem sets and exams, and answer your questions regarding the lectures, the textbook and the video videos, old exam problems, etc.

2 Grading and Exams

Homework: There will be a total of 4 problem sets, each worth 5 points. The two problem sets with the lowest scores will not count towards the final grade.

Exams: There will be two midterm exams in Week 5 and Week 8 (25 points each), and one final exam (40 points).

Homework: 10%

Midterm Exam 1: 25%

Midterm Exam 2: 25 %

Final Exam: 40 %

Re-weighting and Possible Bonus Points: The final exam will include an easy bonus question worth a few points (1 to 3), that can boost the score of the worst-performed **midterm exam**, up until the point where the two midterm scores are equal. These points will not count towards the final exam score, but will be used to compensate those students who performed worse in one midterm versus the other. This is an alternative to the midterms' re-weighting option.

Pros: The bonus points will slightly reduce the risk of getting a low grade because of bad performance in only one midterm. For example, if the bonus question is worth 2 points, and the student receives scores of 13 and 19 from midterms 1 and 2, then the first midterm's score will be increased to 15.

Cons: Like with re-weighting, the availability of the bonus point hurts students who perform equally well in both midterms. For example, if a student who gets a perfect score in both midterms, then the bonus points will be useless (since they cannot be applied towards the final score). Also, if a student earns scores of 17 and 16 from midterms 1 and 2, then their second midterms score will only increase by one point (until the midterm scores are equal), and the second bonus point will be useless.

Despite the cons, I believe the students on average would appreciate the availability of

balancing the scores across the midterms.

Curving: The letter grade scales will be determined after the curving. Hence, the relative scores (and not absolute ones) and the average performance will determine the letter grades.

3 Important Dates

Midterm 1, Week 5, Thursday, class time

Midterm 2, Week 8, Tuesday, class time

Final Exam, Saturday, 03/16/2023, 8:00 - 11:00am. The location will be announced later.

4 Exam Policies

Make-up exams: If a student has to miss an exam due to emergency/sickness, there will be a possibility of a make-up exam. We would appreciate if students are flexible with the make up exam date and time, so that we can administer them all at the same time with our limited resources.

No notes and cheat-sheets during the exam: On the exam day, you can only use a pencil/pen, and a simple calculator (no graphing calculators!). My exams closely follow the material/practice problems. There is a lot of material to learn though, which makes the course challenging despite that I will not include substantially different and tricky questions on the exams. If you understand all the material and have sufficient mastery over solving the practice problems, you will find the exams doable and there will be no need to memorize steps. In contrast, a student may be tempted to memorize how to solve specific numerical examples without understanding the logic behind the steps. Memorizing everything (without cheat sheets) will be extremely hard, whereas understanding the logic obviates the need to memorize things.

5 University Resources

Disability Accommodations. Campus policy regarding disabilities requires that faculty adhere to the recommendations of the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Any student eligible for and needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of disability should submit to me a letter from OSD describing appropriate adjustments or accommodations and should arrange to meet with me as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made in a timely manner. University policies regarding disabilities are available at <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu/students/>. Appointments with OSD (phone or in-person) can be made by calling 858.534.4382 or by email at osd@ucsd.edu. More information can also be found here.

Religious Observance. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflict with scheduled examinations, assignments or required attendance. Please, let me know about a potential conflict as soon as possible so that we can reschedule the relevant assignment/examination.

Harassment Policy. The University Policy on Discrimination and Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff member or faculty member who believes that they have been the subject of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy, should contact the Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (OPHD) at (858) 534-8298, ophd@ucsd.edu, or reportbias.ucsd.edu.

Data Privacy. The University adheres to the standards for student privacy rights and requirements as stipulated in the Federal Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, see <http://ucsd.edu/catalog/front/ferpa.html>.

Counseling. Managing the many challenges of being a college student can be very stressful. Always remember that talking to somebody that is professionally trained to help is just an email, or short walk, away: <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>.

6 Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Book Chapter	IMVH Section
Weeks 1 and 2	Production	Chapter 6	D1
Week 3	Costs	Chapter 7	D2
Week 4	Profit Maximization	Chapter 8	D3
Week 5	Profit Maximization, Midterm 1		
Week 6	Equilibrium, Competitive Markets	Chapter 8	E1
Week 7	Equilibrium, Taxes, Welfare	Chapter 9	E1
Week 8	Midterm 2 , General Equilibrium		
Weeks 9 and 10	General Equilibrium, Efficiency	Chapter 10	E2