

ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS, Fall 2018

Section A00: Tuesday, Thursday 11:00-12:20pm, Solis 107

Section B00: Tuesday, Thursday 12:30-1:50pm, Solis 107

Instructor:

Dr. Melissa Famulari email: mfamulari@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00am-1:00pm (in Econ 221 and online through Zoom)

Graduate TAs: Camila Navajas Ahumada, Zack Goodman, Jinhyeon Han, Songyu He, Frederick Papazyan, Danil Dmitriev and Adrian Wolanski

Undergraduate TAs: Yilan Jiang, Jiachen Lyu, and Jingwei Zhou

Prerequisites: Microeconomic principles (Econ 1) and a year of calculus (either Math 10C or 20C or 21C).

Course Objectives: 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.

Course Materials:

Required Textbook and Reading:

- (1) Varian, Hal, *Microeconomics with Calculus*. There is a custom version (a new cover, identical book) at the bookstore for \$78.75. It will be used in 100B in W119 and in 100C in SP19. You can sell the book back to the bookstore for \$39 in the spring which means it costs \$13.25 per quarter to use this book.
- (2) Machina, Mark (2010), *Math Handout*
- (3) Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook. The link to the videos is on TritonEd

Additional Readings: Other calculus-based intermediate textbooks that you could use include Nechyba's *Microeconomics: An Intuitive Approach with Calculus*, Nicholson and Snyder's, *Microeconomic Theory*, and Perloff's *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus*. Preston McAfee's free online textbook <http://www.introecon.com/> is between Econ 1 and 100A.

Mandatory Discussion Sessions: TAs will work through problem sets and answer your questions regarding lectures, the textbook, homework problems and old exam problems. Please go to the discussion section you are enrolled in.

TritonEd: Where you access the syllabus, class handouts, your grades, homework assignments, etc. I have also posted my past 100A exams to give you some additional practice. NOTE: I will not post answers to my past exams but we are happy to work on these problems with you during office hours and discussion.

100A Problem Solving and Economics Tutoring Lab (PSET): Undergraduate and graduate TAs will be available to answer your questions in Econ 200 most evenings and on Sunday. In Econ 200 there is room for you to work on your homework and get your questions answered if you get stuck. We are hoping to offer PSET on MTWTh from 5:30-8:30pm and Sunday 4-8pm but please check the web page for actual hours: <http://economics.ucsd.edu/undergraduate-program/courses/pset-lab.html>

Piazza: We will use Piazza for class discussion, <https://piazza.com/ucsd/fall2018/econ100a/home>. Piazza is designed to get you help quickly and efficiently from classmates, the TAs, and myself.

Assessment:

Prerequisite test (Thursday, Oct 4 in class)	10 points
Top 5 of 6 online quizzes	50 points
Midterm 1 (Friday Oct. 19, 6-7:20pm)	220 points
Midterm 2 (Friday Nov. 16, 6-7:20pm)	220 points
Final Exam (Saturday Dec. 8, 3-6:00pm)	500 points

There are also two ways to earn extra credit in the class this quarter

Attendance bonus: 10 points if you are in class most of the times I check attendance

Piazza Bonus: 10 points if you are one in the top 25% of “good answerers” in the course.

Quizzes: Quizzes are available online on Mondays and can be taken anytime between 4pm and midnight. Once you start the quiz you have one hour to complete it.

Weekly Homework: It is tremendously important that you keep up with the course and that you practice solving economic problems. We give you two incentives for keeping up.

1. *Quizzes:* There will be 6 online quizzes (see below) and the top 5 count towards your final grade
2. *Written homework:* Each Saturday we will post homework assignments on TritonEd. During your discussion section, your TA will work on the homework assignment for that week. We will post the homework answer key the following Saturday. *These homeworks are voluntary, not graded, but are the most important part of the course. To make the most of your time in this course, do these homeworks.*

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 material that you learned in Math 10ABC or 20ABC that are the most important for this course.

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.

Administrative Issues:

- (1) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation 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
- (2) Students who violate UCSD’s academic integrity policy will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.
- (3) EXAM POLICIES
 - You must bring your **UC San Diego student ID** to all exams.
 - You may only use a pen/pencil and a straight edge during exams.
 - Exams are closed book and you may not use any notes.
 - Exams are electronic-free: you may not use calculators, headphones, cell phones, etc.
 - 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.*
 - There are no bathroom breaks during the midterm exams. Please let me know immediately if this policy will create a hardship for you.
 - If you believe a question has not been graded properly, you may submit a regrade request via Gradescope within one week of the exam being returned. If your TA agrees with you, the score for that question will be corrected. If your TA disagrees with you, you will lose 1 point for a midterm question and 5 points for final exam question (there are 1000 points for the course).

Effects of the Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook on student performance: this class is providing important information to identify the effects of the Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook on student performance. Staff in the Teaching and Learning Commons at UC San Diego (TLC) will take the class grade data, video viewing data, and will combine it with admissions data (standardized test scores, high school GPA and demographic data), UCSD GPA before taking this class and grade in the next class. TLC staff will remove all personally identifying information, so we will not know any student's identity when we analyze the data. Researchers in the Department of Economics will analyze the anonymized data more than one quarter after this class ends.

Your Consent

If you consent to participate in this study, no action is needed. If you DO NOT consent to participate in this study, or you choose to opt-out at any time during the quarter, please submit this form online at <https://goo.gl/forms/JSBRjEmkES6W6xYc2>. Your instructor will not have access to the list of students who opted out until after grades are posted. Note that you must separately opt-out of the study for each course involved in this study.

[] I am not 18 years or older or I do not consent to anonymized research use of my data from the course specified below.

Course name: Microeconomics, part A Course section number: _____ Term: Fall 2018

Name: _____

PID: _____

Week	Text, Math Handout	Video	Topic
(0) 9/27	Ch.1 Math Handout: Sects. A, B, C	B1-3	I. Introduction
(1) 10/1	Ch. 3.1, 3.2, 3.5 Ch. 4 intro, 4.1, 4.2 3.3 3.6	C1a- C1j A2	Thursday 10/4: In-class prerequisite calculus quiz II. Consumer Preferences: A. Axioms of Rational Choice B. Utility Functions C. Level Curves of the Utility Function: Indifference Curves D. Slopes of Level Curves: Marginal Rate of Substitution
(2) 10/8	3.4, 4.3 Ch. 2 Math Handout: Sects. D, E	C1k. C2a A4	Quiz 1, Monday III. Common Utility Functions: Cobb-Douglas, Perfect Complements (Leontief), Perfect Substitutes, CES IV. Budget Constraint V. Mathematical Review of Optimization
(3) 10/15	Ch. 5	C2	Quiz 2, Monday VI. Utility Maximization and Demand Functions MIDTERM 1: FRIDAY, October 19 from 6-7:20pm
(4) 10/22	Ch. 6	C3 C4	VII. Comparative Statics of Demand A. Income changes B. Price changes
(5) 10/29	Ch 8	C5-C6	Quiz 3, Monday VII. Comparative Statics of Demand (continued) C. Compensated Price Changes D. Slutsky Equation E. Demand Relationships Among Goods F. Elasticity
(6) 11/5	Ch 14	C7	Quiz 4, Monday VIII. Compensating and Equivalent Variation, Change in Consumer's Surplus
(7) 11/12	Ch 9.	C8	Quiz 5, Monday IX. Supply of Labor: The Labor-Leisure Decision MIDTERM 2: FRIDAY, November 16 from 6-7:20pm
(8) 11/21	Ch 10	C9	X. Supply of Saving: Consumption-Savings Decision
(9) 11/19	Ch 12	C10	Quiz 6, Monday XI. Decision Making under Risk and Uncertainty
(10) 11/26			Wrap up and Review

Final Exam: Saturday, December 8 from 3-6:00pm



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Since this is an investigational study, there may be some unknown risks that are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed of any significant new findings.

What are the alternatives to participating in this study?

The alternatives to participation in this study are not to participate. If you choose to opt-out of participating in this research study, we will exclude your data from analysis. Whether you participate will have no impact on your experience or grade in the associated class as the professor will not know who is or is not participating in the study until after final grades are assigned.

What benefits can be reasonably expected?

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in the study. The investigator, however, may learn more about how to improve student learning, and society may benefit from this knowledge.

Can you choose to not participate or withdraw from the study without penalty or loss of benefits?

Participation in research is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or withdraw or refuse to answer specific questions in an interview or on a questionnaire at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are entitled. If you decide that you no longer wish to continue in this study before the end of the quarter, simply respond to the online opt-out form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/JSBRjEmkES6W6xYc2>. If you decide to opt out after the quarter has ended, you must contact Ying Xiong (yix184@ucsd.edu) and give the quarter and the course from which you would like your data withdrawn.

You will be told if any important new information is found during the course of this study that may affect your wanting to continue.

Can you be withdrawn from the study without your consent?

The PI may remove you from the study without your consent if the PI feels it is in your best interest or the best interest of the study. You may also be withdrawn from the study if you do not follow the instructions given you by the study personnel.

Will you be compensated for participating in this study?

You will not be compensated for participating in this study.

Are there any costs associated with participating in this study?

There will be no cost to you for participating in this study.



Who can you call if you have questions?

Gabriele Wienhausen and/or her colleague has explained this study to you and answered your questions. If you have other questions or research-related problems, you may reach Gabriele Wienhausen at gwienhausen@ucsd.edu or (858) 534-3958.

You may call the Human Research Protections Program Office at 858-246-HRPP (858-246-4777) to inquire about your rights as a research subject or to report research-related problems.

Your Consent

If you consent to participate in this study, no action is needed. If you DO NOT consent to participate in this study, or you choose to opt-out at any time during the quarter, please submit this form online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScs0Czynypp4SxQJOsFMgP9nFDjJ0zzYPISBWsiP3_wiWkdjaA/viewform. Your instructor will not have access to the list of students who opted out until after grades are posted. Note that you must separately opt-out of the study for each course involved in this study.

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