ECON 1 – Principles of Microeconomics, Syllabus   Tocoian, UCSD Fall 2020

** <mark>Various aspects of the course may (still) change</mark>. Check the Canvas course page for up-to-date information. **
Oct 13th update

Course description:
- Beginning microeconomic theory: supply and demand, consumer theory, theory of the firm, competitive markets, international trade and labor markets. There are no prerequisites.

Course meetings

All class meetings (including lectures, discussion sections and office hours) will be on Zoom. For access, log into the course page on Canvas and go to Zoom LTI Pro (left menu).

- **Class lectures**
    - **MWF 3-3:50pm** and **4-4:50pm**
    - I will hold both lectures live and later post (usually just one) recording on Canvas
    - You can view lectures synchronously (recommended) or asynchronously, without penalty.

- **Discussion sessions and office hours**
    - The schedule lists 8 (eight) 50-minute weekly sessions: Mondays at 9am, 12pm, 1pm, 3pm; and Wednesdays at 10am, 11am, 2pm, 4pm. In an online environment this seems less useful. Instead, a recorded session will be posted by Monday morning, and the 8 discussion time slots will be held as *office hours* instead of formal discussion.
        - This may change if students request it.
        - Discussions start during week 2 and will cover problems based on the previous week's material
    - Additional (TA) office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 7-8pm (evening), Friday 8-9am (morning). More will be added before exams.
    - Instructor office hours: Thursday 3-4pm

- **Study group** sessions
    - **Thursday**, 2-3:20 pm – https://ucsdcommons.adobeconnect.com/econ1_a00_sg/ starting in week 1

Teaching team:
- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian (UCSD PhD, 2011; Caltech BS, 2003)
    - Preferred mode of contact for questions about the class (both logistics and content): **econ1.Tocoian@gmail.com.** If you have a question that relates to you *personally*, email me at otocoian@ucsd.edu
- Teaching Assistants
    - Graduate: Zhiyun (Elaine) Jiang zhj062@ucsd.edu; Ishani Chatterjee ischatte@ucsd.edu; Rohini Ray r3ray@ucsd.edu; Steven Brownstone sbrownst@ucsd.edu; Jeffrey (Alex) Garland jgarland@ucsd.edu; Steven Yee s1yee@ucsd.edu
    - Undergraduate: Anqi (Angie) Dong andong@ucsd.edu; Guanchen Luo gluo@ucsd.edu; Xiaoya Wang xiw038@ucsd.edu
    - Study group leader: Madison Kha mkha@ucsd.edu

Webpage and Required Materials
- The class webpage is **canvas.ucsd.edu**. Everything will be linked through here.

- Required textbook: Frank, Bernanke, Antonovics, Heffetz – *Principles of Economics* 7th edition, published by McGraw Hill
    - Assignments – which account for 9% of the grade – will be completed through McGraw Hill's *Connect* online portal, which includes dynamic and interactive learning features, along with the static eBook.
    - You have been given automatic access through a bookstore service called Inclusive Access. (You should have received an email with information from donotreply@redshelf.com). They will charge you the UCSD-negotiated price of $106 if you don't opt out by Saturday, Oct 17th by going through the *Redshelf* link in Canvas. The code is not available for a lower price from elsewhere, so you should only opt out if you bought a code elsewhere. In that case, you should enter that code when creating your McGraw Hill account.
    - Note that once you purchase Connect online access, it will work for Econ 2 and 3 as well.
    - If you *don't* already own a code, but feel that you have to opt out because of financial difficulties, please let me know.

- Optional: Piazza
    - This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, the TA, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching staff, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. Find our class page at: piazza.com/ucsd/fall2020/econ1

Grade composition
 To summarize, the grade will be composed as follows:
    - Assignments (20-25)   9%   (~2 or 3 per week, bottom **3** dropped)
    - Rehearsal test   1%   Friday, Oct 16th – 5pm to Sunday Oct 18th 7pm
    - Midterm 1   20%   Friday, Oct 23rd – 2pm to 8pm
    - Midterm 2   30%   Friday, Nov 20th – TBD
    - Final   40%   (as listed in the Schedule of Classes)

    - Participation (class and/or Piazza)   up to 3% extra credit
         You will be able to earn up to the maximum extra credit based on Piazza alone, so if you cannot attend class you will not be at a disadvantage.

About the assignments (20-25)
    - All assignments are in Connect
    - No late credit or extensions will be awarded on assignments, including if you add the class late. However, the bottom *three* scores will be dropped.
    - There are three types of assignments:
         1) *LearnSmart* tests your understanding of the most important concepts and can walk you through each chapter (click "Read" in the lower left corner to study).
         2) Video-based: shows you short video clips explaining a concept or method, then asks a couple of questions after each, to check understanding. You can skip through parts of the videos or speed them up if you think you got the gist.
         3) End-of-chapter problems = more traditional problem-solving assignment

o   You will get all 3 types for most chapters. The first two types of assignments are helping you study, in addition to giving you the chance to practice for the tests.

Exams

While I will do what I can to keep to the predicted assessments for this course, the fact that we are using new tools *may make it necessary for me to make a change*.

- We plan to administer all tests in Canvas (as "quizzes") and to proctor them with Respondus and LockDown Browser. These programs use video and audio recording or other personal information capture for the purpose of facilitating the course and/or test environment. UC San Diego does not allow vendors to use this information for other purposes. Recordings will be deleted when no longer necessary. However, if cheating is suspected, the recording may become part of the student's administrative disciplinary record.
- I reserve the right to administer an oral test if I feel it is necessary to uphold academic integrity.

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.

About the content of the tests:
o   The tech rehearsal quiz (Oct 16) is primarily intended to make sure everything works smoothly for the exams. There will be some *easy* questions about the material, to test that equations, graphs etc. are displayed correctly.
o   The two midterms (Oct 23rd and Nov 20th) will cover incremental material, (although some concepts unavoidably build on earlier material).
o   The final exam will be cumulative, albeit with more focus on the most recent material, which hasn't yet been tested.

About grade curving:
o   By default, I apply the classic intervals (A-/A/A+ =90 and above; B-/B/B+ = 80 - 89.9; etc.)
o   When needed, I curve the total score up (or – equivalently – shift the thresholds down). This can only help you.
I generally do not curve individual exam scores, unless the test proved to be significantly harder than I had intended.

Topics we plan to cover:

Chapter 1: Thinking Like an Economist	1-30 (30 pages)
Chapter 2: Comparative Advantage	31-54 (23 pages)
Chapter 3: Supply and Demand	55-86 (31 pages)
Chapter 4: Elasticity	87-112 (25 pages)
Chapter 5: Demand	113-148 (35 pages)
Chapter 6: Perfectly Competitive Supply	149-172 (23 pages)
Chapter 7: Efficiency, Exchange and the Invisible Hand in Action	173-202 (29 pages)
Chapter 15: International Trade and Trade Policy	397-422 (25 pages)
(Chapter 13: Labor Markets, Poverty and Income Distribution	349-372 (23 pages))

I will post more details on Canvas as we go.

Other administrative issues
- Deadline to change grade option or drop w/o "W": Oct 30th; you should expect to have the results from midterm 1 by then.
- Holidays: Wednesday Nov 11th (Veterans Day); Thu-Fri, Nov 26-27 (Thanksgiving)
- 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 confronted and 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.
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
- For tests taken asynchronously: receiving or sharing information about the test *at any time during the testing window* (this includes discussion boards or chat rooms).

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