

ECON 2: Market Imperfections and Policy – Syllabus

Course Information

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.

- **Lectures:** **Mon & Wed 5-6:20pm**, Zoom – will be recorded and posted on Canvas
- TA discussions: Fridays, 4-4:50pm and 5-5:50pm – recording also posted on Canvas
- Office hours (schedule may change, but you can see upcoming sessions in Zoom LTI Pro in Canvas)
 - Dr T: Thursday, 5:30-6:30pm
 - TA's: Tuesday 10-11am, Thursday 6:30-8:30pm
- Instructor: Dr. Oana Tocoian
 - Preferred contact for class-related questions: Econ2.Tocoian@gmail.com
 - For issues regarding you personally, email me at: otocoian@ucsd.edu
- Teaching Assistants
 - Graduate: Yu-Chang Chen yuc391@ucsd.edu; Vivian Aluoch valuoch@ucsd.edu; Molly Shatto mshatto@ucsd.edu; Jordi Martinez jom001@ucsd.edu;
 - Undergraduate: Ting (Freda) Lin t4lin@ucsd.edu

Course description:

- This course is the second in the principles of microeconomics sequence. It is a continuation of ECON 1, with emphasis on market failures and the role of government policy. Topics include market power, externalities & public goods, taxes, information economics, and labor markets. **Prerequisites:** Econ 1.

Webpage and Required Materials

- The class webpage is on Canvas (<https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/19045>) – check it regularly for updates.
- 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](#). (Check your inbox for an email 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 in the following two cases:
 - If you bought and used an access code for Econ 1 within the last 2-3 years, your account with McGraw Hill should still be active. If you need help accessing it, go to mhhe.com/support or call 800-331-5094
 - If you bought a code elsewhere, you should enter that one when creating your McGraw Hill account.
 - If you *don't* already own a code, but feel that you have to opt out because of financial difficulties, please [let me know](#).
- Required: Moblab account (\$15). You will receive an email with instructions on how to join.
 - You will have to make the \$15 payment when you sign up. If you are in a financially difficult situation, let me know.

- Although there isn't an official free trial period, they have committed to refunding you that payment if you decide to drop the class (for this and other help, email support@moblabs.com)

Grade composition

- The grade will be composed as follows:

○ Connect assignments (20-25)	9%	(~2 or 3 per week, bottom 3 dropped)
○ Moblab games (6 to 8)	5%	(~1 per week, bottom 2 dropped)
○ Rehearsal test	1%	Fri, Oct 16 th – Sun Oct 18 th (asynchronous)
○ Midterm 1	20%	Monday, Oct 26 th 5-8pm (asynchronous)
○ Midterm 2	25%	Monday, Nov 23 rd 5-8pm (asynchronous)
○ Final	40%	Thursday, Dec 17 th 5-10pm (asynchronous)
- A limited amount of extra credit (up to 3%) can be earned for class participation, providing helpful answers (or contributing to interesting conversations) on the Canvas discussion board, and to a lesser extent good performance in Moblab games.

About Connect assignments (20-25)

- You will get full credit for completing them, even if you made mistakes.
- 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
- 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.

MobLab games

- MobLab is a tool for simulated economic interactions. Some games will be assigned to be played outside of class. Others will be run in class and also be available to play outside of class for those who cannot attend synchronously because of the time zone they are in.

Discussion questions

Each week, a set of problems ("discussion questions") will be posted, which the TAs will go over in discussion sections. These will cover the same topics as that week's assignment problems.

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.

Exam schedule

- The exam dates and times for the midterms will be finalized during week 1
- The final exam window will include the officially scheduled time (Thursday Dec 17th, 7-10pm PST).

About the content of the tests:

- The tech rehearsal quiz 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.
- The two midterms will cover incremental material, (although some concepts unavoidably build on earlier material).
- The final exam will be cumulative, albeit with more focus on the most recent material, which hasn't yet been tested.

About grade curving:

- By default, I apply the classic intervals (A-/A/A+ =90 and above; B-/B/B+ = 80 - 89.9; etc.)
- 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 covered:

Chapter 3 (review): Supply and Demand	55-86 (31 pages)
Chapter 7 (review): Efficiency, Exchange and the Invisible Hand	173-202 (29 pages)
Chapter 8: Monopoly, Oligopoly and Monopolistic Competition	203-236 (33 pages)
Chapter 9: Games and Strategic Behavior	237-262 (25 pages)
Chapter 10: An Introduction to Behavioral Economics	263-292 (29 pages)
Chapter 11: Externalities, Property Rights and the Environment	293-324 (31 pages)
Chapter 12: The Economics of Information	325-348 (23 pages)
Chapter 14: Public Goods and Tax Policy	373-398 (25 pages)
Chapter 20: The Labor Market: Workers, Wages and Unemployment	525-544 (19 pages)

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. 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
- 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!