

Economics 100B: Microeconomics, Part B

Fall 2022, Professor Simone Galperti

This is the second of three courses in the core microeconomics sequence. It builds on the material presented in Economics 100A. The principal themes of the course will be the theory of production and firms, the markets for factors of production, and the competitive equilibrium reached between producers and consumers in “perfectly competitive” markets. The class emphasizes mathematical analysis in developing the theory; real-world applications will also be discussed.

Normally, I consider the syllabus my “contract” with the class. However, this quarter some flexibility might be desirable due to all of the uncertainty that still remains due to the pandemic. Events outside our control may force us to change the conditions under which the class is taking place in order to ensure that the quality of your learning is preserved. I will do everything I can to keep to the predicted organization of this course. If changes become necessary, I will make sure to inform you as early as possible, to include you in the decision process, and to explain as best as I can the rationale behind the change. I haven’t taught in person in a while. Please, bear with me. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Format

The class will be taught mainly through regular in-class lectures and will be supported by video lectures from the *Intermediate Microeconomics Video Handbook*, which will be provided via the course website. **Students should not view the Video Handbook as a substitute for in-class lectures**, but rather as supplementary material much like a textbook.

Prerequisites

Students must have taken the prerequisite courses listed in the UCSD catalog, have good math skills, and be very comfortable with calculus.

Class Website

Materials will be posted at <https://canvas.ucsd.edu> on the page for Economics 100B. Students should log in regularly and check for announcements.

Lecture and Discussion Section Schedule

	Lecture	A00 Tu/Th	8:00a - 9:20a	LEDDN AUD
92565	Discussion	A01 M	7:00p - 7:50p	WLH 2207
92566	Discussion	A02 M	5:00p - 5:50p	CSB 004
94496	Discussion	A03 W	2:00p - 2:50p	WLH 2207
94497	Discussion	A04 W	5:00p - 5:50p	CSB 004
	Lecture	B00 Tu/Th	11:00a - 12:20p	WLH 2113
36984	Discussion	B01 M	5:00p - 5:50p	YORK 4080 A

There will be no class meetings on university holidays.

Examinations There will be one midterm examination and one final examination.

Midterm	Date	Time	Room
Section 088279	Friday, October 28	6:00p - 7:50p	CENTR 101
Section 088280	Friday, October 28	6:00p - 7:50p	CENTR 101

Final	Date	Time	Room
Section 088279	Saturday, December 3	3:00p - 6:00p	CENTR 101
Section 088280	Saturday, December 3	3:00p - 6:00p	CENTR 101

I would ask you to **please be in the room 20 minutes before the start of the exam**, so that we can hand out the material and start on time. Due to the large number of students enrolled in this course, it is not possible to accommodate midterm exams at times and dates different from the ones above.

NOTE: There will be assigned seating for examinations. I will explain in class how this works before the exams.

Excused Absence There are times when students must miss an exam for valid reasons. Valid, excusable reasons include illness or injury, family emergencies, university-approved curricular and extracurricular activities, and religious holidays. Because of the unusual circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these cases may not apply, but the general principles remain unchanged. A student can be excused from a midterm only in cases of valid reasons for which he or she provides official documentation:

- For all non-emergencies (e.g., religious holidays, university-approved curricular and extracurricular activities, court appearances), email me *at least* two weeks prior to the exam that will be missed. For university-approved activities, you must also obtain a letter (or a class absence form) from the unit or department sponsoring the activity and give it to me at least one week prior to the anticipated absence(s).
- For all emergencies (e.g., death in the immediate family, death of a close friend, sudden hospitalization of a close family member or oneself, serious injury or personal illness), email me as soon as possible and *no later* than one week after the missed exam. In the case of a serious, extended illness, students should notify me within one week from the end of the illness.
- When notifying me, send an email to my personal UCSD account and provide your full name and ID, UCSD email address, course and section number, the date(s) of the absence, the reason for your absence (official documents), and exam that you will miss/have missed.
- Students who do not follow these guidelines may have their request for an excused absence denied.
- Students are responsible for obtaining the lecture notes from a fellow classmate for all classes they miss, even if their absence is excused.

Weekly Problem Sets Problem sets will be assigned weekly through the course website under “Content.” They will not be graded and students do not need to submit them. However, working on the exercises is a **very critical part** of the learning process, so students are **strongly** urged to take problem sets seriously. Students are also **strongly** encouraged to work on problem sets in small groups of at most 4 or 5, where **everybody** attempts an answer to the problem at hand **on his or her own first** and **only then** solutions are discussed within the group. This is a very effective way to learn the material and prepare for the exams. During your discussion section, your TA will work on the homework assignment for that week. We will post the answer key **only after** the homework has been discussed in the discussion section; this is a commitment mechanism for your good (to give every student the time to work on the exercises on his or her own without the temptation to look at the solutions). **Please, do not email the professor nor the TAs to ask for solutions beforehand.**

Grading Weights Midterm: 40% Final: 60%

If a student misses the midterm without an acceptable and documented excuse as explained above, he or she will earn zero points in the midterm. If a student is excused based on an acceptable and documented reason, the weight of the missed exam will be reallocated to the final.

Readings The text selected by the Economics Department for Econ 100ABC is *Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus: A Modern Approach* (Varian). Chapters 1, 6, 9, 14, 15, 16, 19-24, 32, and 33 are relevant for Econ 100B. Students should think of the textbook as supplementary material. Other calculus-based textbooks can be used in place of Varian, including Nicholson's *Microeconomic Theory*. One free option is an online introductory textbook written by Preston McAfee, available at: <http://www.introecon.com/>. The level of this book is between Econ 1 and Econ 100. A free math-preparation book by Martin Osborne is available at: <http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/osborne/MathTutorial/index.html>. Chapters 1-6 of this book review the calculus tools taught in Math 10ABC or 20ABC that are most important for this course.

Attendance Policy

Please arrive to class early or on time. Attendance to class is strongly encouraged. It will help in mastering the course material. Active participation in the discussions in class is expected. If you miss class for any reason, it is **your** responsibility to get the notes from another classmate and make up the work.

Discussion Sessions These sessions are conducted by the TAs who will work through problem sets and answer your questions regarding lectures, the textbook, homework problems, and old exams.

Note: there will be **no** discussion session during the first week of classes.

Communication via Piazza We will be using Piazza for class discussion and communication. 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. If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.

Sign-up link: piazza.com/ucsd/fall2022/econ100b

Class link: piazza.com/ucsd/fall2022/econ100b/home

If you have questions regarding the course, you should use Piazza as the main channel to communicate about the course. **Do not send emails to Galperti's email address directly, except for very urgent matters.** We will respond to messages and emails as soon as we can, but please give us some time to do so. Responses will be delayed while I am traveling. For tips on how to best communicate by email with your professors, see this helpful link: <http://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>. Please note, I do **not** discuss grades over email; I only talk about grades in my office hours.

Teaching Assistants, Undergraduate Teaching Assistants (UIA), and Contact Information

Budillon Fulvia (fbudillo@ucsd.edu)

Behnan Roudsari Vafa (vbehnamroudsari@ucsd.edu)

Garland Jeffrey Alex (jgarland@ucsd.edu)

Bauer Amanda Grace (agbauer@ucsd.edu)

Yadav Sarthak (UIA) (sayadav@ucsd.edu)

Zhou Gongyu "Grant" (UIA) (gozhou@ucsd.edu)

The TAs and UIAs will announce their office-hour times and dates on Canvas under “Information.”

Galperti’s Office Hours During the first week of class I will run some surveys on Canvas to get your feedback on the time and day of my office hours, so as to adjust to your schedules as much as possible. I will then post this information on the course website under “Information.” Office hours will take place in my office, **Econ 213**. I will also create a Zoom meeting for each office hour so that you can ask questions remotely if you cannot come to my office.

How to Succeed in the Course Doing well in this course requires regular attendance of the lectures and sections, watching the on-line lectures, and solving practice problems. It is essential that a student **understands first the definitions and concepts that are presented in class**, before going to the exercises. Do not spend 90% (or more) of your time doing exercises and only 10% (or less) studying the theory. Working through the exercises is a particularly important part of the learning process (but it is not everything!). It is not enough to glance at the solutions to the exercises. Students should work on as many of the assigned exercises as they can before the discussion sections and before looking at solution keys.

Do not come to class and spend all your time texting your friends or surfing the internet. You are wasting precious time and the opportunity to understand the material, which may look trivial at first, but is not.

Do not be afraid to ask questions if something is not clear. Remember, no question is wrong or silly!

Lecture notes: I will post on the course website course material that you can use to take notes. This material already contains some of the definitions and formulas that we will discuss in class. The idea is that in this way you don’t have to worry about writing down everything that I say and you can better follow the lectures. I am going to lecture using similar notes and write on them so that you can follow along. I think that using these notes is a very efficient and effective way to follow in class and absorb the material and to keep everything in order. **Print them out or download them on your tablet device and use them wisely in class!** I am sorry for making you to print them (I also care a lot about the environment), but this is again in your best interest.

Technology in the Classroom

You are welcome to use any technological device but **exclusively** for the purpose of maximizing your learning experience. This includes taking notes or searching information on the Internet. **No use of devices that may distract you or your classmates will be tolerated.** This includes reading, watching, and listening to material unrelated to the course, browsing social media, chatting or texting, and emails. Silence your cell phone and turn off other electronic devices not used for the course. Please remove ear buds and **abstain from texting or emailing during class**; these activities are distracting to your classmates and me. Students may be asked to leave class for the day if their behavior is disruptive.

Inclusive Access

Your digital course materials are provided by the UC San Diego Bookstore through Canvas. You will need to **opt in** to the Inclusive Access program by **October 8th, 2022, 11:59PM PDT** to access the materials at a special reduced price. If you decide not to opt in, you will be responsible for sourcing the materials elsewhere. Instructions for how to opt in can be found [here](#). If you have questions about Inclusive Access and how to access your course materials, visit [RedShelf Solve](#). [This page](#) shows how to access different types of course materials via Canvas. If you're having issues accessing your course materials, you can submit a ticket for RedShelf [here](#). For any questions about billing please contact textbooks@ucsd.edu. Again, you have until October 8th, 2022, 11:59PM PDT to complete this process. You can opt in and out as much as you want before that date, but if you are opted out on that date, you will not be able to access the course materials in Canvas and your student account will not be charged the IA fee.

Look out for an email from donotreply@redshelf.com and check their spam folders if they don't receive it. Here are the [RedShelf Solve](#) link and the [Inclusive Access FAQ page](#) for student support and questions.

Future Opportunities If you earn an A+/A/A- grade in my class this quarter, I recommend that you take the one-unit honors class 100BH in the future. Honors classes are capped at 20 students and you will get to know the faculty member well (very important for getting 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 100BH opportunity.

Letters of Recommendation Some of you may be thinking about attending graduate school in the future, as either a master or a PhD. Given this, you may be thinking about asking me for a letter of recommendation. If so, it is important that you attend lectures and office hours and ask/answer questions in order to give me the opportunity to know you a bit better. Otherwise, the letter I will write will be extremely uninformative and weak. Given this, for your good I may even decide not to write a letter for you at all. Either way, I strongly encourage you to get your recommendation letters from instructors of elective courses who will get to know you better.

Supplemental Instruction The Academic Achievement Hub (AAH) in the Teaching + Learning Commons will be offering study group sessions during the 2022 Fall Quarter in support of this Econ 100B course. For information about the schedule of sessions and your SI leader for Fall Quarter 2022, please see [here](#). Study groups will be facilitated by undergraduate leaders who have previously taken the course and earned a high grade. Times of the sessions will be posted online and announced by the leaders. For more information, please visit the following links:

AAH website: aah.ucsd.edu

Leader:

- **Economics 100B: Shane Boyle** sboyle@ucsd.edu

Session Schedule:

- **On Zoom: Monday 12-1:20p** <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/98116505259>
- **In person: Friday 12-1:20p (room 1504 of the Teaching and Learning Commons)**

Other links:

Drop-in Content Tutoring: <https://commons.ucsd.edu/academic-support/content-tutoring/index.html>

Supplemental Instruction: <https://commons.ucsd.edu/academic-support/supplemental-instruction/index.html>

Study Group: <https://commons.ucsd.edu/academic-support/study-groups/index.html>

Learning Strategies: <https://commons.ucsd.edu/academic-support/learning-strategies/index.html>

Administrative Notes

1. *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](#).
2. *Academic Integrity.* Students are expected to do their own work, as outlined in the UCSD policy on **Academic Integrity**. All students of UC San Diego are responsible for knowing and adhering to this institution's policy regarding academic integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate this policy. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion. The Academic Integrity Office can be contacted by email at aio@ucsd.edu or by telephone at 858-822-2163. Additional information regarding the University

Academic Integrity policy is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/>. **Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.** If you witness dishonest behavior, please bring it to my attention as soon as possible (even anonymously if you prefer). Academic dishonesty is very harmful for honest students. It is in your interest to speak up!

3. If you arrive late to an exam, you will be allowed to take the exam in the time that remains as long as no one has submitted his/her exam and left the room. If you arrive after someone has submitted an exam, you will earn zero points on the test.
4. *Regrade.* If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must first discuss this with a TA for the course. If after talking to the TA, you would like to have your exam re-graded, you must submit a re-grade request to the lead TA within seven days from when exams were returned to the class. You must explain clearly why you believe your score is in error. The professor and TAs will then discuss the question, review your entire exam, and increase *or decrease* your score as is necessary. You may not ask for another re-grade or reinstate your original grade. Hence, by submitting a re-grade request you risk having your score decrease, so consider this decision carefully.
5. UCSD has automated wait-lists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245. The economics department does not allow late additions (additions after the second week) to any class.
6. *Conduct Code.* To foster the best possible working and learning environment, UC San Diego strives to maintain a climate of fairness, cooperation, and professionalism. UC San Diego's [Principles of Community](#) illustrate the expectations of all members of our community. Consistent with such principles, the [Student Conduct Code](#) underscores the pride and the values that define UCSD's community, while providing students with a framework to guide their actions and behaviors. I recommend reviewing the Student Conduct Code to make sure you are familiar with the behavior that is expected from you in class and on campus in general.
7. *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 (s)he has 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.
8. *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>.
9. *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/>.

Schedule of Topics and Lectures This is a very rough schedule of the timing of topics; the material may be covered at a slightly faster or slower pace. I will make sure to let you know if you must watch any video in the *Video Handbook* before an in-class lecture.

Key to the video lecture parts: A Math Topics, B Basics, C Theory of the Consumer, D Theory of the Firm (D1 Production, D2 Cost Functions, D3 Optimal Supply in Markets), E Equilibrium in Competitive Markets (E1 Competitive Equilibrium in a Single Market, E2 General Welfare Analysis), F Game Theory, G Imperfect Competition, H Externalities and Public Goods, I Asymmetric Information.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Video lectures</u>
September 22	Review and Overview	Parts A and C as needed
September 27-29	The Firm and Production	D1a-m, also A3-4 as needed
October 4-20	Theory of Costs (short run, long run)	D2a-1, also A5-6 as needed
October 25-27	Optimal Supply in Competitive Markets	D3a-k, also A5-6 as needed
October 28	Midterm exam	
November 1-3	Optimal Supply in Competitive Markets	D3a-k, also A5-6 as needed

November 8-15	Partial Equilibrium Analysis	E1a-j videos <i>required</i>
November 17-22	General Equilibrium Analysis	E2a-i videos <i>required</i>
November 29-December 1	Welfare Analysis	E2j-m videos <i>required</i>

Also, students must understand Sections F-H of Machina's Econ 100ABC math handout:
<http://ilti.ucsd.edu/Content/Econ-IMVH/files/IMVH%20Calculus%20Supplement.pdf>
This material will be utilized during the course.