

Syllabus: Economics 100C

Spring 2010, Section A00

March 29, 2010

Times and Places

Lecture:	TTh 3:30–4:50pm	Solis 104
Section A:	F 1:00–2:50pm	Center Hall 214
Section B:	W 8:00–9:50pm	Pepper Canyon Hall 122
Section C:	M 7:00–8:50pm	Solis 107

Lectures will also be podcast and made available at <http://podcast.ucsd.edu/>. You are welcome to attend TA sections for any section of the course.

Contact Information

Title	Name	Office Hours
Professor	David A. Miller	Friday 1:30–2:30, Econ 228
TA	Matthew Goldman	Monday 12–2pm, Econ 112
TA	Elisa Hovander	Wednesday 11am–1pm, Econ 125
TA	Michael Kuhn	Wednesday 2–4pm, Econ 122
TA	William Leung	TBA
TA	Charles Lin	Thursday 1–3pm, Econ 124
TA	Philip Neary	Tuesday 2–4pm, Econ 128
<i>Course Email</i>		econ100c@gmail.com

You are welcome to attend office hours for any of the TAs. Please use the official course email address, econ100c@gmail.com, for correspondence about course content to ensure your questions are answered promptly. This address is shared with the other lecture sections so please note your section in all your correspondence. You can also communicate with us and other students through the discussion board on WebCT.

Content

This course is the third of three courses in microeconomics and will build on the material presented in Economics 100A and 100B. You need to have taken the prerequisite courses listed in the UCSD catalog. The topics covered include imperfect competition, imperfect information, externalities and public goods. The course emphasizes mathematical analysis in developing the theory, but will also discuss real-world applications to demonstrate the usefulness and importance of the theory.

The required text is *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus* (Perloff). You are responsible for the material in the assigned parts of the text. A companion website for the text is available at http://wps.aw.com/aw_perloff_microcalc_1/ and has useful study material and interesting applications and extensions. We will cover the following topics:

1. Review of Perfect Competition (Chapters 3–5, 8–10)
2. Monopoly (Chapter 11)
3. Pricing Strategies (Chapter 12)
4. Game Theory (Chapter 14)
5. Oligopoly (Chapter 13)
6. Externalities and Public Goods (Chapter 17)
7. Economics of Information (Chapters 18 & 19)

Evaluation

There will be three exams: two midterms and one final. Each midterm will be worth 25% of your score and the final will be worth 50% of your score. Midterms will cover incremental material while the final will be cumulative (but will place a heavier emphasis on material from the last third of the course). Exams are scheduled for the following dates and will not be offered at any alternative times:

- Midterm 1: Thursday, April 15, in class, 1 hour
- Midterm 2: Tuesday, May 11, in class, 1 hour
- Final exam: 10 June, 8:00–11:00am, location TBA, 3 hours

Note: If you miss a midterm for a documented, university approved reason (i.e., illness), then the remaining midterm will count for 33% of your score and the final for 67%. If you miss a midterm for any other reason you will receive a zero. No one will be allowed to start an exam after the first person leaves it. You will not be graded on attendance but of course are responsible for the announcements made and material presented during lecture.

Grades are curved. We will fit a skewed normal distribution to the empirical distribution of scores. Then the cutoff for each grade level will be set at the percentiles of the distribution as follows:

- A: 75%
- B: 40%
- C: 10%
- D: 5%

Plus and minus grades will be determined similarly. If your score yields a C-minus grade, you may, at your option, select a D grade instead, to facilitate retaking the course.

Practice Problem Sets and TA Sections

Practice problem sets will be assigned approximately weekly. They will not be graded and you do not need to turn them in. However, you are strongly urged to take them seriously and attempt all assigned problems. The exams will require that you can solve a variety of analytical problems in a limited amount of time. The best way to succeed in this class is to thoroughly practice solving problems, as well as to read the textbook and review the lecture notes and examples given in class.

The TAs will answer questions and go over solutions to the problem sets during their weekly discussion sections (and solutions will be posted following the weekly sections). It is important that you attend one (or both) of these sections, and attendance will benefit you the most if you have already attempted the problems on your own first.

You are welcome to attend TA discussion sections for any section of the course. In some weeks the content will be identical.

Administrative Issues

1. Three sections of Econ 100C are offered this quarter. All three professors are coordinating closely, with regard to both course content and course policies.
2. If you choose to use a laptop to take notes during the lecture, you must sit in the back row. No other use of electronic devices is allowed during class.
3. UCSD now has automated waitlists. If you have any questions regarding adding the class, please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245. The university does not allow late additions (additions after the second week) to any class.
4. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this academic sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will also impose a disciplinary penalty. For UCSD policy, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.
5. You will only need a pen or pencil for exams. You will be provided with paper and do not need to bring bluebooks. Exams are closed-book, closed-notes and you will not be allowed to use calculators. Also, if you use a pencil for your exam, you will not be able to request a re-grade.

6. Regrade requests are only permitted if you took the entire exam in pen. If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must first discuss this with the TA who graded the relevant part of the exam. If after talking to the TA, you would like to have your exam regraded, you must submit a regrade request to me within 7 days from when exams were first returned to the class. You must explain clearly in writing why you believe your score is in error. If you request a regrade, I may regrade your entire exam and your score could go up or down.