

ECONOMICS 100A: MICROECONOMICS

Spring 2013

Section A: TuTh 12:30-1:50, Solis Hall 107

Section B: TuTh 3:30-4:50, Solis Hall 107

Maxim Sinitsyn, msinitsyn@ucsd.edu

Office Hours: W 10-1 in Econ Bldg 111

TAs	Session place/time	Office, Office Hours
Sec. A: Henrique Romero hromero@ucsd.edu	PCYNH 122; M 8:00p-8:50p	SH 225; W 3:00-5:00
Sec. A: Martha Gimbel mgimbel@ucsd.edu	PCYNH 122; W 12:00-12:50	ECON 117; W 10:00-12:00
Sec. A: Andrew Chamberlain adchamberlain@ucsd.edu	PCYNH 122; W 3:00-3:50	SH 139; Th 3:00-5:00
Sec. B: Siewward Gaastra sgaastra@ucsd.edu	PCYNH 122; W 8:00p-8:50p	ECON 124; Tu 10:00-12:00
Sec. B: Kilian Heilmann kheilmann@ucsd.edu	PCYNH 122; W 4:00-4:50	ECON 116; M 2:00-4:00
Sec. B: Ketki Sheth ksheth@ucsd.edu	CSB 001; Tu 7:00-7:50	SH 237; M 10:00-12:00

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.

Required Texts:

- (1) Perloff, Jeffrey M. (2011) *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus*, 2nd edition. Pearson/Addison-Wesley.
- (2) Mark Machina's Econ 100ABC Math Handout.

Web Resources: You are encouraged to take advantage of the following supplemental material for the 100ABC sequence, available free over the Internet.

- (1) Martin Osborne's intermediate mathematics tutorial:
<http://www.economics.utoronto.ca/osborne/MathTutorial/index.html>
- (2) Preston McAfee's Introductory textbook (this material is at a level between most microeconomics principles textbooks and Perloff's more advanced treatment.) <http://www.introecon.com/>

Weekly Homework: Each week on Friday, I will post practice problems on Ted. They will not be graded. The best way to prepare for the exams is to form study groups and practice doing the problem sets together. I will post the answers after the problems are reviewed in TA sessions.

Exams: Grading will be based on three midterms (17% each) and a final examination (49%). The final exam will be cumulative. If you miss a midterm exam for a valid medical reason, you must inform me by e-mail no later than 24 hours after the exam and provide me with a doctor's note no later than one week after the exam. Then, the full weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to the final exam. All exams are closed book, and you may not use calculators and cell phones during the exams.

Regrade Requests: I will give back the midterm exams in class. You can ask for a regrade before you leave the room with your exam. Your whole exam will be regarded, and your score can go up or down. If you don't think you have enough time to look at your exam after the class, you can pick up your exam from my office during my office hours.

Schedule:

Week	Topic	Text Ch./Math Handout Section
1	Mathematical Review #1	Sections B and C
2	Consumer Preferences, Utility, Budget Constraint	3.1, 3.2, and 3.3
	Midterm 1, April 19; 6:00pm-6:50pm; (Sec. A – Solis 107; Sec. B – Peter 110)	
3	Mathematical Review #2	Sections D and E
4, 5	Utility Maximization and Demand Functions	3.4 and 4.1
	Midterm 2, May 10; 6:00pm-6:50pm; (Sec. A – Peter 110; Sec. B – Peter 108)	
6, 7	Comparative Statics of Demand	4.2, 4.3, and 5.1
	No Class on Th, May 16	
8	Supply of Labor	5.5
9	Supply of Saving	15.4
	Midterm 3, May 24; 6:00pm-6:50pm; (Sec. A – Peter 110; Sec. B – Peter 108)	
10	Decision Making Under Risk and Uncertainty	16.1, 16.2, 16.3, and 16.4
	Final, June 10 (Sec. A – 11:30-2:30; Sec. B – 3:00-6:00)	

FAMOUS OPTIMIZATION PROBLEMS IN ECONOMICS

Optimization Problem	Objective Function	Constraint	Control Variables	Parameters	Solution Functions	Optimal Value Function
Consumer's Problem	$U(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ utility function	$p_1 \cdot x_1 + \dots + p_n \cdot x_n = I$ budget constraint	x_1, \dots, x_n commodity levels	p_1, \dots, p_n, I prices and income	$x_i(p_1, \dots, p_n, I)$ regular demand functions	$V(p_1, \dots, p_n, I)$ indirect utility function
Expenditure Minimization Problem	$p_1 \cdot x_1 + \dots + p_n \cdot x_n$ expenditure level	$U(x_1, \dots, x_n) = u$ desired utility level	x_1, \dots, x_n commodity levels	p_1, \dots, p_n, u prices and utility level	$h_i(p_1, \dots, p_n, u)$ compensated demand functions	$e(p_1, \dots, p_n, u)$ expenditure function
Labor/Leisure Decision	$U(H, I)$ utility function	$I = I_0 + w \cdot (168 - H)$ budget constraint	H, I leisure time, disposable inc.	w, I_0 wage rate and nonwage income	$168 - H(w, I_0)$ labor supply function	$V(w, I_0)$ indirect utility function
Consumption/Savings Decision	$U(c_1, c_2)$ utility function	$c_2 = I_2 + (1+i) \cdot (I_1 - c_1)$ budget constraint	c_1, c_2 consumption levels	I_1, I_2, i income stream and interest rate	$c_1(I_1, I_2, i), c_2(I_1, I_2, i)$ consumption functions	$V(I_1, I_2, i)$ indirect utility function
Long Run Cost Minimization	$w \cdot L + r \cdot K$ total cost	$F(L, K) = Q$ desired output	L, K factor levels	Q, w, r desired output and factor prices	$L(Q, w, r), K(Q, w, r)$ output-constrained factor demand functions	$LTC(Q, w, r)$ long run total cost function
Long Run Profit Maximization (in terms of Q)	$P \cdot Q - LTC(Q, w, r)$ total profit	none	Q output level	P, w, r output price and factor prices	$Q(P, w, r)$ long run supply function	$\pi(P, w, r)$ long run profit function
Long Run Profit Maximization (in terms of L and K)	$P \cdot F(L, K) - w \cdot L - r \cdot K$ total profit	none	L, K factor levels	P, w, r output price and factor prices	$L(P, w, r), K(P, w, r)$ factor demand functions	$\pi(P, w, r)$ long run profit function