

Economics 100B: Microeconomics, Part B

Winter 2021, 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 related 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. It is the first time I teach online. Please, bear with me. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Format The class will be taught through online lectures via Zoom 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 class lectures**, but rather as supplementary material much like a textbook.

You can access the lecture meetings via Zoom through Canvas. By campus policy, **all the lectures will be recorded** and posted on Canvas under “Media Gallery” as soon as they become available (this may take a few hours).

Note: please sign in to your Zoom account at ucsd.zoom.us before joining the class meetings.

Netiquette: Students are encouraged to keep their cameras on and microphones on mute, please. Students are strongly encouraged to interrupt the instructor if they have a question: To do this, unmute yourself and speak up. Don’t worry! Please do not use the blue “raise hand” button in Zoom.

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	11:00a - 12:20p	RCLAS
29588	Discussion	A01 W	4:00p - 4:50p	RCLAS
29589	Discussion	A02 W	5:00p - 5:50p	RCLAS
	Lecture	B00 Tu/Th	6:30p - 7:50p	RCLAS
36984	Discussion	B01 W	7:00p - 7:50p	RCLAS
36985	Discussion	B02 W	8:00p - 8:50p	RCLAS

There will be no class meetings on university holidays.

Examinations There will be **one** “technology quiz,” **one** midterm examination, and a final examination.

Technology Quiz	Date	Time	Room
Section 29588-9	Thursday, January 21	11:50a - 12:20p	RCLAS
Section 36984-5	Thursday, January 21	7:20p - 7:50p	RCLAS

Midterm	Date	Time	Room
Section 29588-9	Friday, February 5	8:00p - 9:50p	RCLAS
Section 36984-5	Friday, February 5	8:00p - 9:50p	RCLAS

Final	Date	Time	Room
Section 29588-9	Saturday, March 13	8:00a - 10:59a	RCLAS
Section 36984-5	Saturday, March 13	8:00a - 10:59a	RCLAS

For each exam, I would ask you to **please be in the connected online 15 minutes before the start of the exam**, so that we can make sure that everything works 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.

Proctoring Protocol You will be required to “self-proctor” your exams by hosting your own Zoom meeting and saving a recording of yourself taking the exams on paper using the “screen share” function in Zoom while having your video and audio on. Once done with the exam, you will have to show your test on camera, page by page, scan the test and upload it on Gradescope. Finally, you will have to upload the zoom recording on Canvas. The protocol requires many steps that need to be executed carefully. I have prepared a separate document with step-by-step detailed guide through the process. The document will be posted on Canvas when we get closer to the first exam.

Technology Quiz This quiz consists of a few exam-like questions. Its purpose is twofold: to make sure that you do not delay working on the foundational topics covered in the first weeks, and to familiarize yourself with the proctoring protocol that we are going to use for the midterm and the final.

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 Technology Quiz: 10% Midterm: 35% Final: 55%

If a student misses the technology quiz or 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.

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/winter2021/econ100b

Class link: piazza.com/ucsd/winter2021/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 and Contact Information

Luo Bei (b7luo@ucsd.edu)

Dmitriev Danil (ddmitrie@ucsd.edu)

Vu Kimi (vha@ucsd.edu)

Levkun Aleksandr (alevkun@ucsd.edu)

The TAs 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 via Zoom. Keep in mind that the time and days of office hour are not set in stone; if what I suggest sometimes does not work for you, let me know and we will find another time to meet.

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.

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 from me 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.

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 **January 16th, 2021** 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. For any questions about billing please contact textbooks@ucsd.edu. For any questions about using your eBook please reference [RedShelf Solve](#).

To opt-IN:

- Click the RedShelf link in Canvas
- Click View Course Materials
- Select "OPT-IN to Course Materials"

You will have until **Saturday, January 16th, 2021** to complete this process or you will be responsible for getting access to the materials elsewhere.

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.

Supplemental Instruction The Academic Achievement Hub (AAH) in the Teaching + Learning Commons will be offering study group sessions during the 2021 Winter Quarter in support of this Econ 100B course. For Winter Quarter 2021, study group sessions will begin meeting on **Wednesday, January 5th**; drop-in content tutoring will begin meeting on **Monday, January 4th**. 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: Phil Choi** pchoi@ucsd.edu

Session Schedule:

- **Link:** <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/91974227222>
- **Wednesday 1-2:20p**

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>
January 5	Review and Overview	Parts A and C as needed
January 7-12	The Firm and Production	D1a-m, also A3-4 as needed
January 14-28	Theory of Costs (short run, long run)	D2a-1, also A5-6 as needed
February 2-4	Optimal Supply in Competitive Markets	D3a-k, also A5-6 as needed
February 5	Midterm exam	

February 9-11	Optimal Supply in Competitive Markets	D3a-k, also A5-6 as needed
February 16-23	Partial Equilibrium Analysis	E1a-j videos <i>required</i>
February 25-March 2	General Equilibrium Analysis	E2a-i videos <i>required</i>
March 4-11	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.