



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 100A: INTERMEDIATE MICROECONOMICS (SU25)
ALISHER BATMANOV

Course Instructor

Alisher Batmanov
Email: abatmanov@ucsd.edu
Office hours: Fri 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Location: Atkinson Hall 6004 or on [Zoom](#)

Teaching Assistant

Fulvia Budillon
Email: fbudillo@ucsd.edu
Office hours: Thur 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Location: on [Zoom](#)

Lectures

Mon & Wed at 11:00 am - 1:50 pm
Location: PODEM 1A19

Discussions

Tue at 4:00 - 5:50 pm
Location: RWAC 0121

Problem Sets

PS #1 due on Tue, Aug 12 at 11:59 pm
PS #2 due on Tue, Aug 26 at 11:59 pm

Exam Dates

Midterm - Mon, Aug 18 in class
Final - Fri, Sep 5 at 12 pm in PODEM 1A19

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first of three upper-division courses in the core microeconomics sequence. The main focus of the course will be on consumer theory, producer theory, and general equilibrium.

We will learn how to set up, solve and analyze optimization models and apply these mathematical models to understand consumer behavior. Applications will include commodity demand and consumer welfare. We will then apply similar optimization models to the theory of production and firms. Applications will include the demand for factors of production. Finally, we will introduce the notion of general equilibrium and analyze the competitive equilibrium reached between producers and consumers in the economy.

Prerequisites: ECON 1 and MATH 10C or MATH 20C or MATH 31BH.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The main course-level learning outcomes can be split into two broad categories as follows:

Group A: Consumer and Producer Theory

- (1) Understand how economic agents, such as consumers and producers, make welfare-maximizing decisions.
- (2) Apply the Lagrangian method to solve constrained optimization problems to determine optimal demand and supply.
- (3) Analyze the duality between buyers' utility-maximization and firms' profit-maximization problems.

Group B: Market Equilibrium

- (4) Apply demand and supply analysis to determine equilibrium prices and quantities in competitive markets.
- (5) Define and solve for competitive equilibrium in an Edgeworth box economy with two agents.
- (6) Understand how optimal allocations and market prices are determined in equilibrium and why competitive equilibria are Pareto efficient.

COURSE TEXTBOOK

The main text for this course is *Microeconomics: Theory and Applications with Calculus*, 5th edition, by Jeffrey M. Perloff. All necessary materials, including handwritten notes from lectures, will be posted on Canvas. These notes are self-sufficient, containing everything you will need to succeed in this course.

LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS

This is an **in-person class**, and as such, attendance and participation will be expected and essential for your learning.

As an encouragement for you to attend lectures, there will be an opportunity for you to earn up to 10% as a **bonus** to the course grade. Five times during the quarter we will have pop quizzes and you will be guaranteed at least 60% if you are present on the day of the quiz regardless of your performance.

As an encouragement for you to attend discussions, your TA will cover at least one problem from the upcoming problem set during the discussion in a given week.

Note that lectures will be podcasted. We will be posting all class notes on Canvas. There will be regular **office hours** held by the instructor and the TA for you to ask any course-related or general questions – we strongly encourage you to come to office hours!

There will also be a class **Discord server** which is the easiest way for you to ask questions – we will try our best to address them as fast as we can. You can also use Discord to make groups to work on problem sets together. Join link: discord.gg/FKrkv45z7P

ASSESSMENT

Your course grade will be determined based on the following components:

Problem Sets (x2)	30%	Due on Tuesdays, Aug 12 and Aug 26 at 11:59pm . Work in groups of up to 3. Submit one solution per group on Gradescope.	Weeks 2 & 4
Midterm Exam	35%	Held on Monday, Aug 18 during class time . Duration - 2 hours. The midterm exam covers consumer theory.	Week 3
Final Exam	35%	Held on Friday, Sep 5 at 12:00 pm in TBD . Duration - 2 hours. The final exam is cumulative.	Week 5
Bonus Quizzes (x5)	10%	Unannounced in-class pop quizzes. Guaranteed 60% if present on a quiz day.	Weeks 1-5
Total:	110%		

Problem Sets: In the weeks with no scheduled exams (2 and 4) you will be assigned problem sets to be completed individually or in groups of up to 3 students. Each problem set carries the weight of 15% of your course grade. Please upload your solutions directly on Gradescope. Problem sets are designed to test your conceptual understanding of class concepts, ability to carry out analytical derivations and ability to apply concepts from lectures when solving various problems.

Late submissions of up to 12 hours after the deadline will be penalized by 20% subtracted from the final score. No submissions will be accepted after 12 pm on the following day – email me if you find yourself in such situation. If you cannot submit your solutions by the deadline due to a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, you must notify me at least 12 hours before the deadline and the weight will be shifted to the other problem set (or midterm/final exam).

Midterm and Final Exams: Both exams are held in person, so please plan your commute accordingly. The exam format is a mix of multiple-choice questions and essay-type problems. Exams are closed book but you can bring one cheat sheet to the exam, which should be no larger than a standard letter-sized paper (8.5 x 11 inches). Both sides of the paper may be used. Electronic devices (phone, tablet, laptop, calculator, etc.) are not permitted. Please bring a photo ID.

There will be no make-up midterm. If you miss the midterm for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason, we will increase the contribution of the final exam to 70%. You must notify me that you must miss the midterm exam at least 12 hours before the exam and failure to do so will result in a zero grade for the midterm. A make-up final exam might be given only for a verifiable medical/legal/sports reason. Failure to notify me at least 12 hours before the exam that you must miss the final exam will result in a zero grade for the final. Unexcused absences will also result in a zero grade – if you missed the exam without prior notification, do email me nevertheless and we might come up with an alternative arrangement.

Bonus Quizzes: There will be five **in-class** pop quizzes, which will be unannounced. Each quiz will consist of 5 straightforward multiple choice questions based on the material recently covered in class. If you are present on the day of the quiz but score less than 3

correct answers, you will still receive a minimum of 3 out of 5 points (1.2% out of 2% per quiz). This means if you are present all five times the quiz is administered, you are guaranteed 6% towards the overall course grade.

Letter Grades Policy: This course does not use a fixed percentage-based scale (e.g., 93% = A). Instead, I will determine letter grade cutoffs based on the overall difficulty of the problem sets and exams. After the midterm, I will provide a rough estimate of your expected letter grade based on your performance up to that point.

To give you a general idea, about one-third of students should expect at least an A (A+, A, or A-), and about two-thirds should expect at least a B (B+, B, or B-). These proportions are not set in stone and may shift depending on overall class performance.

Finally, while your score relative to the class average provides helpful context, it does not solely determine your grade. If the whole class performs well, everyone can receive a strong grade.

I will also track the performance of students who actively participate in class. At the end of the quarter, if these students' letter grades are close to the cutoffs (for example, between an A- and a B+), I may adjust the letter grades upwards for this sample of students.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- (1) If you have a documented disability, please send your AFA documentation to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you have a disability and desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities.
- (2) Midterm and Final Exam Proctoring
 - (a) Late show-up: If you arrive to take the exam after the first 30 minutes, you will not be allowed to take the exam.
 - (b) Restroom policy: You may not use the restroom during the last 30 minutes of the exam.
- (3) Grading concerns: If you believe there is a grading mistake, you must let us know within one week of the exam scores being posted. We are using Gradescope to grade exams and Gradescope makes it very easy to ask for a regrade.

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism. All graded work must be done by you. Familiarize yourself with the University's policy on academic integrity: [UCSD Academic Integrity Policy](#). Zero-tolerance policy for violations applies. Students who violate UCSD's academic integrity policy will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty.

Harassment and Discrimination. The University Policy on Discrimination and Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff member, or faculty member who believes that they have 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 visit reportbias.ucsd.edu.

Well-being and Counseling. Managing the many challenges of being a college student can be very stressful. Always remember that talking to staff who are professionally trained to help is available: <https://caps.ucsd.edu/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

	Date	Activity	Textbook (tentative)
Week 1	Mon, Aug 4	Consumer Theory L1	Ch. 3.1–3.2
	Wed, Aug 6	Consumer Theory L2	Ch. 3.3–3.4
Week 2	Mon, Aug 11	Consumer Theory L3	Ch. 4.1–4.3
	Tue, Aug 12	Problem Set #1 due (15%)	
	Wed, Aug 13	Consumer Theory L4	Ch. 4.5, Review
Week 3	Mon, Aug 18	Midterm Exam (35%)	
	Wed, Aug 20	Producer Theory L5	Ch. 6.2–6.5, 7.2–7.3
Week 4	Mon, Aug 25	Producer Theory L6	Ch. 8.1–8.2
	Tue, Aug 26	Problem Set #2 due (15%)	
	Wed, Aug 27	Producer Theory L7	Ch. 8.3–8.4
Week 5	Mon, Sep 1	No Class - Labor Day	
	Wed, Sep 3	General Equilibrium L8	Ch. 10.2-10.3
	Fri, Sep 5	Final Exam (35%)	