

Economics 100A: Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus

The University of California, Santa Cruz - Summer Session 1 - 2023

Rolly Kapoor

Instructor & Lectures

Instructor: Rolly Kapoor

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Lecture Location and Timings:

- Thimann Lecture Hall 1
- Timings - Tuesday and Thursday 1-4:30 pm
- The course has 10 modules, two for each week.

Office hours: Friday: 11 am - 12 noon (remote) - use this zoom link -

<https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/9739061503?pwd=eU5lMmt4Q2J4emwzM0FISW5STnFkZz09>

Thursday: 11am - 12 noon (in - person) - 405C Jack Baskin Engineering - 2

Course site on Canvas

Course Overview

This course provides fundamental tools for microeconomic analysis. **Microeconomics is a body of ideas for understanding and analyzing the economic behavior of individuals and firms.** The main objective is to get students to internalize this body of theory well enough to analyze a large variety of situations from an economics perspective. We will cover important conceptual tools and many of their applications.

The greatest focus in our class is understanding how “supply” and “demand” form and then operate together in a “market.” We will strongly emphasize the variety of ways in which markets can operate. We will discuss markets that operate with “near perfection” and grant society the best outcomes, as well as markets in which some features of the supply/demand prevent the market from being completely efficient. In particular, we will discuss more realistic market structures such as monopoly and oligopoly. We will learn the fundamental tools to analyze strategic interaction among economic agents.

Prerequisites

- *ECON 1 and ECON 2; and ECON 11B or AM 11B or MATH 22 or MATH 23A.*

While this course is about economics, not mathematics, mathematics is vital in conducting economic analysis. The main mathematical tools to be familiar with are graphing equations on a plane, solving a

system of two equations and two unknown variables, and basic differential calculus, aka derivatives. You are required to understand the concept and compute the derivative of relatively simple functions.

Study Materials

There are two main sources of content for this course: lectures and the textbook.

1. Lectures
2. Textbook

The textbook is **“Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (Ninth Edition)”** by Hal R. Varian. This text is widely available in digital format. The 9th edition is the one we will use in this class. Please check the latest, live version of the syllabus on Canvas for the corresponding reading assignments.

Exams

There will be two exams.

Exam 1: July 11, 2023

Exam 2: July 27, 2023

Exams will be 2 hours long and will be held during the lecture times in the lecture hall. The first exam will cover the first half of the course, and the second exam will cover the second half of the course.

****I will not offer make-up exams for the midterm or the final**.**

Homework Assignments

There will be four (4) homework assignments throughout the summer session 1, and these are worth 36% of the total grade. Homework assignments will be published on Canvas.

The homework will be graded for completion **Only TWO randomly chosen questions will be graded for correctness**. Full credit will be given to those answering all questions and two randomly chosen questions correctly.

I encourage group discussions while working on the problem sets. However, everyone must hand in their own problem set with explanations (when applicable) in their own words. The student must show their work if a problem requires calculations or math.

Grading

Exam 1:	30%
Exam 2:	30%
HW assignments:	36%
Lecture attendance:	4%

Timeline

Date	Day	Week	Textbook Chapters	Homework Assignment Due	Exams
Jun-27	Tue	1	Ch 1 (optional, recommended) Ch 2, Ch 3, Ch 4	HW1	
Jun-29	Thu		Ch 5, Ch 6, Ch 15		
Jul-01	Sat				
Jul-04	Tue	2	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday
Jul-06	Thu		Ch 19, Ch 21, 22		
Jul-08	Sat				
Jul-11	Tue	3	Ch 23, Ch 24 (24.1 to 24.5), Ch 16	HW3	Exam 1
Jul - 13	Thu				
Jul-15	Sat				
Jul-18	Tue	4	Ch25 (all); Ch 26 (26.1 to 26.4)	HW4	
Jul-20	Thu		Ch 28, Ch 29		
Jul-22	Sat				
Jul-25	Tue	5	Ch 30		Exam 2
Jul-27	Thu				

Mandatory Readings and Video Lectures

Topic	Mandatory Readings from Textbook / Chapters
1 Introduction	Math Appendix
- Microeconomics, Markets	Ch 1 (optional, recommended)
2. Consumer / Demand	
- Budget,	Ch2
- Preference and Utility	Ch3, Ch4
- Optimal Choice	Ch5
- Demand, Market Demand	Ch6, Ch 15
3. Producer / Supply	
- Technology, Production Functions	Ch 19
- Cost Minimization,	Ch 21
- Cost Curves	Ch 22
- Firm Supply,	Ch 23 (all);
- Industry Supply	Ch 24 (24.1 to 24.5)
4. Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 16
5. Market power	
- Monopoly	Ch25 (all); Ch 26 (26.1 to 26.4)
- Oligopoly	Ch 28 (all)
6. Game Theory	Ch 29 (all), Ch 30 (all)
7. Externalities (optional TBA)	Ch 35 (35.3 and 35.4)
8. Public goods (optional TBA)	37.1 - 37.3 37.4 - 37.7

Important Campus Resources and Policies

DRC Accommodations:

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please affiliate with the DRC. I encourage all students to benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For students already affiliated, ensure you have requested Academic Access Letters, where you intend to use accommodations. You can also request to meet privately with me during my office hours or by appointment as soon as possible. I would like us to discuss how we can implement your accommodations in this course to ensure your access and full engagement in this course.

DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

Title IX:

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and the enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise the most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at titleix.ucsc.edu.

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information, please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.