

Economics 100A: Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus

University of California, Santa Cruz - SUMMER 2023

Prof. Kristian López Vargas

TAs: Yilin Li and Piyush Gandhi



The most up-to-date version of this syllabus is on Canvas.

Please read this syllabus very carefully. It contains essential information.

All hours are in US Pacific Time.

Professor & Lectures

Professor: [Kristian López Vargas](#)

Email: klopezva@ucsc.edu

Asynchronous video lectures

- This course is instructed online, with **asynchronous lectures**.
- ONLINE Sections are voluntary.
- The course has 10 modules, one for each week.
- See our Canvas page in the “Home” tab for the modules and the corresponding video lectures.

Online Office hours:

- Wednesdays from 8 AM to 10 AM on Zoom: bit.ly/econ100a-kristian

Course site on Canvas, including modules with video lectures: <https://canvas.ucsc.edu/courses/64139>

Teaching Assistants

Yilin Li yilinli@ucsc.edu

Sections: Wednesday 10am - 11am

ZoomID: 933 4811 9840 passcode: 123456

Zoom link: https://bit.ly/econ100a_ss23_yilin_sections

Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 10am

ZoomID:992 1772 9971, passcode: 123456

Link: https://bit.ly/econ100a_ss23_yilin_officehours

Piyush Gandhi piyandhi@ucsc.edu

Sections: Tuesday 10am-11am

Zoom link: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/97760868307?pwd=eUR1ZEhEaDdWbkUxQmFCQzg0T0drUT09>

Meeting ID: 977 6086 8307, Passcode: 123456

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30am-10:30am

Zoom link: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/92404485821?pwd=VEN2amxRN0VzWnVSRmhXR2hROEJNZz09>

Meeting ID: 924 0448 5821 , Passcode: 123456

Sections (Online)

TA	Section	Day / Time	Zoom Link
Piyush	1	Tuesday 10am-11am	https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/97760868307?pwd=eUR1ZEhEaDdWbkUxQmFCQzg0T0drUT09
Yilin	2	Wednesdays 10am - 11am	https://bit.ly/econ100a_ss23_yilin_sections

Sections are voluntary: Zoom generates reports to see how long each student connects to the discussion section. Every week, we will aggregate these reports. As a reward, those who accumulate over 400 minutes at the end of the quarter will receive ten bonus points in their lowest Midterm grade (Exams are out of 100).



Small Group Tutoring

~~Small Group Tutoring will be available in this course.~~

~~Our tutor is TBA~~

~~We will publish information about SGT sessions shortly.~~

Course Overview

Welcome! 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 economic perspective. We will cover critical conceptual tools and many of their applications.

The 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 monopolies and oligopolies. 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 primary sources of content for this course: video lectures and the textbook.

1. Video Lectures

The video lectures are in the Home tab of the course’s Canvas website. We organized the videos in Canvas modules.

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.¹

<https://ucsc.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php?action=browse#books/3867176/>

Additionally, there are two **secondary sources of content** for this course:

1. The **Supplementary Reading Materials** can be found in the modules that contain the video lectures.
2. The **HW assignment questions and summaries** will be published as a separate tab on our course’s Canvas page.

Exams

There will be two midterm exams and a final exam.

¹ Optional/additional textbook: In the past, some students have reported that reading [Perloff’s Microeconomics](#) in parallel with the official textbook was very useful.

Midterm 1: July 24

Midterm 2: Aug 14

Final Exam: Set 1

Exams will be available for all 24 hours of the exam date. Students can start anytime and have two hours to complete a midterm and three hours to complete the final exam.

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

Homework Assignments

Nine (9) homework assignments will be worth 20% of the total grade. Homework assignments will be published on the course's Canvas website under the corresponding modules (see table below for due dates).

The homework will be graded, and the TWO lowest grades will be dropped. Late homework assignments will not be accepted. Please do not even ask. If a student has an emergency that prevents them from turning in a problem set, I will count that as the lowest grade. Most of the homework assignments will have between four to eight questions. **Only TWO randomly chosen questions will be graded.** Full credit will be given to those that answer both questions correctly.

I encourage group discussions while working on the problem sets. However, each student must submit their assignment separately and with explanations (when applicable) in their own words. If a problem requires calculations or math, the student must show their work. HW assignments will be posted on Canvas below the corresponding module.

Grading

Final Exam(*):	40%
Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
HW assignments:	20%

*/ Only the **final exam is comprehensive or cumulative.**

Timeline

Date	Day	Week / Canvas Module	Textbook Chapters	Homework Assignment Due	Exams	Professor's Office hours	TA's sections	
Jun 26	MON	1	Ch 1 (optional, recommended) Ch 2					
Jun 27	TUE						10-11 AM	
Jun 28	WED						8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Jun 29	THU							
Jun 30	FRI							
Jul 3	MON	2	Ch 3, Ch 4					
Jul 4	TUE			Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	
Jul 5	WED						8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Jul 6	THU							
Jul 7	FRI					HW1 Due		
Jul 10	MON	3	Ch 5					
Jul 11	TUE							10-11 AM
Jul 12	WED						8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Jul 13	THU							
Jul 14	FRI					HW2 Due		
Jul 17	MON	4	Ch 6, Ch 15					
Jul 18	TUE							10-11 AM
Jul 19	WED						8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Jul 20	THU							
Jul 21	FRI					HW3 Due		
Jul 24	MON	5	Ch 19		Exam 1			
Jul 25	TUE							10-11 AM

Jul 26	WED					8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Jul 27	THU						
Jul 28	FRI			HW 4 due			
Jul 31	MON						
Aug 1	TUE						10-11 AM
Aug 2	WED	6	Ch 21, Ch 22			8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Aug 3	THU						
Aug 4	FRI			HW 5 due			
Aug 7	MON						
Aug 8	TUE						10-11 AM
Aug 9	WED	7	Ch 23 (all), Ch 24 (24.1 to 24.5), Ch 16			8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Aug 10	THU						
Aug 11	FRI			HW 6 due			
Aug 14	MON				Exam 2		
Aug 15	TUE						10-11 AM
Aug 16	WED	8	Ch25 (all); Ch 26 (26.1 to 26.4)			8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Aug 17	THU						
Aug 18	FRI			HW 7 due			
Aug 21	MON						
Aug 22	TUE						10-11 AM
Aug 23	WED	9	Ch 28 (all)			8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Aug 24	THU						
Aug 25	FRI			HW 8 due			
Aug 28	MON						
Aug 29	TUE	10	Ch 29 (all), Ch 30 (all)				10-11 AM

Aug 30	WED			HW 9 Due		8-10 AM	10-11 AM
Aug 31	THU						
Set 1	FRI				Final Exam		

Mandatory Readings and Video Lectures

Topic	Mandatory Readings from Textbook / Chapters	Video Lectures
1 Introduction	Math Appendix	
- Microeconomics, Markets	Ch 1 (optional, recommended)	Mod 1
2. Consumer / Demand		
- Budget,	Ch2	Mod 1
- Preference and Utility	Ch3, Ch4	Mod 2
- Optimal Choice	Ch5	Mod 3
- Demand, Market Demand	Ch6, Ch 15	Mod 4
3. Producer / Supply		
- Technology, Production Functions	Ch 19	Mod 5
- Cost Minimization,	Ch 21	Mod 6
- Cost Curves	Ch 22	Mod 6
- Firm Supply,	Ch 23 (all);	Mod 7
- Industry Supply	Ch 24 (24.1 to 24.5)	Mod 7
4. Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch 16	Mod 7
5. Market power		
- Monopoly	Ch25 (all); Ch 26 (26.1 to 26.4)	Mod 8
- Oligopoly	Ch 28 (all)	Mod 9
6. Game Theory	Ch 29 (all), Ch 30 (all)	Mod 10
7. Externalities (optional TBA)	Ch 35 (35.3 and 35.4)	optional
8. Public goods (optional TBA)	37.1 - 37.3 37.4 - 37.7	optional

Other relevant information

- The use of www.desmos.com is highly encouraged.
- **To help professors and TAs keep track of communications from students, please only use Canvas to contact the professor and TAs.**
- If you need to send an email to the instructor or TA, please include “[ECON 100A]” in the subject. For example, Subject: [ECON 100A] Question about HW2. Thank you. However, please try to stick to Canvas messages.
- My goal is for everyone to succeed in this course, but you need to speak up if you need help and do it early in the quarter. There is a substantial amount of material to be learned this term, and the only way to succeed is to start as soon as possible.
 - If this is your final attempt taking this class or your academic standing depends severely on this class, please talk to your professor during the first week of classes. We will monitor your performance more closely.
 - If you need to, feel free to ask your professor for advice on how to approach studying for this class.
 - I did a survey a few years ago and students who do well in my class typically do this:
 - Study on average 7 hours a week independently (in the 10-week term).
 - Study more than 10 hours in an exam week (in the 10-week term).
 - 70% read the textbook, ~80% never miss lectures, and ~80% never miss sections.
 - Be consistent, practice your math, ask questions, and study both: theory and exercises.
 - I wish you all the best and **remember: we are here to help you learn.**

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 to discuss how we can implement your accommodations in this course to ensure your access and total engagement.

DRC Remote Accommodations:

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to determine reasonable academic accommodations individually. 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.

Small Group Tutoring SGT

Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students' needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class, and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they commit to attending every week:

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, and questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link:

<https://ucsc-go-redrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content>

You can also find the link on our website: <https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html>

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 the 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. Maintaining 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.