

COURSE INFORMATION

This course will provide the basic tools of microeconomic analysis. Microeconomic theory is a remarkably useful body of ideas for understanding and analyzing the behavior of individuals and firms in a variety of contexts. The goal of the course is to get you to internalize this body of theory well enough so that you can rigorously and efficiently analyze a variety of problems in an economic framework. While this is a “tools” course, we will cover many real-world applications. For example, an understanding of demand is essential to firms’ optimal pricing and product positioning decisions. The concept of supply curve provides an invaluable framework for thinking about firm costs and investment decisions. After presenting the competitive model, we will turn to imperfectly competitive market structures such as monopoly and oligopoly (Cournot and Bertrand models) if time permits.

INSTRUCTOR, TA and SGT INFORMATION

Course Name: Intermediate Microeconomics (Econ 100A – 01; Summer Session 1)	Class Days/Times (Remote: Zoom)	Office Hours (Remote: Zoom 2 hour per week)	Sections (Remote: Zoom 1 hour per week)	Email
Instructor: Dr. Subhra Saha	T/Th 9:00am– 12:30pm	Tue 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM Zoom: Use Class Link		susaha@ucsc.edu
Teaching Assistant (TA): Hamidreza Habibi (Hamid)		Tuesdays: 2-4 PM	Wednesdays: 1- 2 PM	hhabibi1@ucsc.edu
Small Group Tutor (SGT): Jackson Kohls			Mondays 7-8 pm, Wednesdays 12-1 pm; and Fridays 4-5 pm	jdkohls@ucsc.edu

Sections, TA, SGT

Everyone needs to sign up for a TA section. Attendance in sections is not mandatory but highly recommended. In addition to an hour worth of sections each week, a TAs will also hold two hours’ worth of office hours per week. TA sections will complement the lectures (reinforcing concepts from lectures, going over problems solved in class, quiz problems, problem set answers, midterm exam answers, etc). Small Group Tutor (SGT) will complement the TA sections but not substitute them. Please remember that participation in TA or Small Group tutoring sections does not and should not substitute attendance in class.

Attendance, Netiquette, Notetaking & Electronics policy:

Attendance is strongly recommended. Attendance is not graded. Please do not send me emails trying to justify your absences. You will be responsible for the material taught in the class if you are absent. Please switch off cell phones and put them away before the lecture. On Zoom classes, please mute your

microphones (unless you have to ask a question). You may choose to have your video on or off. We will be using the chat box to communicate with one another (or you can unmute and speak). Follow Along Class lectures will be posted at least 2 hours before the class. Annotated class lectures will be posted after the class is over. Coming to class and notetaking is absolutely essential for your success in this class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Differentiate between endogenous and exogenous variables,
2. Compute specific and parametric solutions of endogenous variables: applications from demand/supply model, utility maximization model, cost minimization/profit maximization model
3. Solve economic problems employing the constrained optimization framework (maximization or minimization in presence of constraints); take derivatives of the endogenous variables with respect to exogenous variables to figure out comparative statics.
4. Draw graphs of equilibrium and changes in the equilibrium (comparative statics).

PREREQUISITES COREQUISITES

Economics 1 and calculus. Mathematics is a useful tool in communicating the intuitions of economics. The important mathematical tools are algebra, graphing equations on two-dimensional graph, solving two equations and two unknown system of equations, ability to compute the derivative of functions. This is not a comprehensive list, but these tools are important.

REQUIRED MATERIALS TEXTBOOK AND TECHNOLOGY

The required text is Microeconomics by Besanko and Braeutigam (Version 5). Prior versions are acceptable as well. If you use an older version, it is your responsibility to keep up with any important deviations from the current version. Additional readings may be assigned during the quarter. The class notes will be posted & the lectures will be posted via Yuja. You need to go over these lectures outside class hours. You will also be asked to go over IMVH videos from the faculty of UC San Diego (available in canvas).

COMMUNICATION

All communications outside the classroom will be held via Canvas and emails (preferred)

ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENT

- **Problem Sets (25 points)** –Submit Problem Sets in Canvas. Each submission is an individual assignment. Please include last name, first name and problem set #. Only upload **a single PDF file**. (Do not link it to google drive or do not connect google drive files directly into canvas). All questions must be answered and all relevant work (including mathematical calculations and graph) shown to get credit. PS will be graded using Rubrics. No email or late submissions will be accepted for any reason. PS assignments have soft and hard deadlines. Soft deadlines are nudges (Due By). You cannot submit your work after the hard deadlines (Available Until). If you submit your work after the soft deadline Canvas will mark your work as late. But no points will be deducted for such lateness.
- **Quizzes (15 points)** – Multiple Choice, True and False questions, Take Home; No proctoring, open book open notes. Auto Graded, Questions from different test banks. Can contain images.

Two attempts, highest score kept for grading purposes. Quizzes have soft and hard deadlines similar to PS assignments.

- **Midterm Exam (25 points) and Final Exam (35 points):** Take Home Multiple Choice & File Upload assignments. Multiple Choice questions will involve True/False questions, can contain images, timed; single attempt, auto graded. Questions are taken from multiple test banks, No proctoring, open book open notes. The File Upload Questions are similar to the Problem Set questions. The exams will be open for approximately 1.5 days. You cannot take the exam after the hard/firm deadline (“Available Until” in Canvas). Final Exam is non-cumulative.
- **Extra Credit Discussion Points (1 point) – 2 Discussions.** I will grade the discussions. Same Soft/Hard Deadline format as the PS assignments.
- **Extra Credit TA Points (0.50 points)** At the end of the quarter, TAs gives these points to students for regularly attending and participating in sections.
- **Class Participation (0 points):** While you will not be graded separately on class participation; I will expect the respect and cooperation necessary to make learning productive and interesting. Class attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. I may take attendance for my own recordkeeping.

GRADING POLICY

- **Total Course Score** = Midterm Exam + Final Exam + Problem Sets + Quizzes
- **Curving Bonus:** Total Course Score is curved: Each student gets the **positive difference** between the highest score for A (94) and the highest raw score total **up to 0.5 points**.

If your Course Total is	Then your Letter Grade is
100 and above	A+
94 - 99.99	A
90 - 93.99	A-
87 - 89.99	B+
84 - 86.99	B
80 - 83.99	B-
77 - 79.99	C+
73 - 76.99	C
70 - 72.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
63 - 66.99	D
60-62.99	D-
Below 60	F

Problem Set, Quiz, Discussions & Exams Grading, Grade Appeal Policy:

Problem sets are submitted and graded in canvas. They are graded on a rubric. They will be graded and returned with some feedback. You should compare the answers of the problem sets in Canvas to your own work. The TA will go over the answers in the sections. I will try to address the most important problems in class. You need to know how to look up comments in Canvas ([How do I view assignment comments from my instruct... - Instructure Community \(canvaslms.com\)](#)). If you have grading questions about a problem set then please clarify with the TA within two days of grading that particular problem set.

Quizzes and Multiple Choice Exam Questions are self-graded. Discussions are graded by me. The exam File upload questions are graded by the TA. If you have grading questions about a problem set or exam then please clarify with the TA within **two days of grading** that particular exam / problem set.

Grade Cutoffs

When the time for final grades comes, I often receive emails from students who believe they are close to the cutoff for a higher letter grade and want to be rounded up. It is unfair to round your grade when those of others are not. Since I cannot honor these requests and my reasons are given here, I may not respond to such emails.

STUDENT HOURS FOR CLASS

This is a 5-unit course. 3.5 hour of in-person lecture, 2 hours of reading, 2 hours of going over resources and 3 hours of homework per week.

INSTRUCTOR FEEDBACK

TA: File Upload Questions on Exams & Problem Sets. The instructor: Quiz, Discussion, Multiple Choice Exam questions.

STUDENT FEEDBACK

At the end of the quarter, you will be asked to complete a Student Experience of Teaching survey for this course. SETs provide an opportunity for you to give valuable feedback on your learning that is honest and constructive. This anonymous feedback will help me consider modifications to the course that will help future students learn more effectively.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Modules # & Dates	Topics from Textbook [Exam Dates]	Submit/Complete in Canvas
Module 1: June 21; June 23	Analyzing economic problems (Ch. 1) Demand and supply analysis & Elasticity (Ch. 2) Budget Equations (Ch. 4)	PS I & Quiz I: Soft Deadline: by 11:59 PM Sun June 26 Hard Deadline: by 8:30 AM Tue June 28
Module 2: June 28; June 30, July 5	Utility (Ch. 3) Consumer Equilibrium Choice (Ch. 4) Consumer Equilibrium Choice (Ch. 4) & Demand Functions (Ch. 5)	PS II & Quiz II: Suggested Deadline: by 11:59 PM Sun July 3 Hard Deadline: by 8:30 AM Tue July 5
Module 3: July 7; July 12	Production Functions (Ch. 6) Costs and Cost Minimization (Ch. 7) Review for the Mid Term Exam <i>[Mid Term Exam Thu (7th July 2 PM) – Fri 8th July 11:59 PM]</i>	PS III & Quiz III: Suggested Deadline: by 11:59 PM Sun July 10 Hard Deadline: by 8:30 AM Tue July 12
Module 4: July 12; July 14;	Cost Curves (Ch. 8) Perfectly Competitive Markets (Ch. 9-10);	PS IV & Quiz IV: Suggested Deadline: by 11:59 PM Sun July 17 Hard Deadline: by 8:30 AM Tue July 19
Module 4: July 14; July 19; July 21	Monopoly (Ch. 11), Capturing surplus (Ch. 12) Game Theory, Oligopoly Ch. 13.2; Final Exam Review <i>[Final Exam Thu (21st July 2 PM) – Fri 22nd July 11:59 PM]</i>	PS V & Quiz V: Suggested Deadline: by 11:59 PM Fri July 22 Hard Deadline: by 11:59 PM Fri July 22

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All members of the UCSC community benefit from an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. You are expected to present your own work and acknowledge the work of others in order to preserve the integrity of scholarship.

Academic integrity includes:

- Following exam rules
- Using only permitted materials during an exam
- Viewing exam materials only when permitted by your instructor
- Keeping what you know about an exam to yourself
- Incorporating proper citation of all sources of information
- Submitting your own original work

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Disclosing exam content during or after you have taken an exam
- Accessing exam materials without permission
- Copying/purchasing any material from another student, or from another source, that is submitted for grading as your own
- Plagiarism, including use of Internet material without proper citation
- Using cell phones or other electronics to obtain outside information during an exam without explicit permission from the instructor
- Submitting your own work in one class that was completed for another class (self-plagiarism) without prior permission from the instructor.

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a 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 [Academic Integrity \(ucsc.edu\)](https://www.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity) and https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

ACCESSIBILITY

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> to me as soon as possible, preferably within the **first week of the Summer Session**; through a new system called [Accommodate \(ucsc.edu\)](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/accommodate). During the academic school year, you may receive support from your department, division or other delegate in providing exam accommodations (eg. PBSci testing). **These resources are not available during Summer Session.** The DRC makes every effort to aid instructors in the implementation of Summer Session exam accommodations by helping to find testing space, readers, proctors and scribes.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The materials in this course are the intellectual property of their creators. As a student, you have access to many of the materials in the course for the purpose of learning, engaging with your peers in the course, completing assignments, and so on. You have a moral and legal obligation to respect the rights of others by only using course materials for purposes associated with the course. For instance, you are not permitted to share, upload, stream, sell, republish, share the login information for, or otherwise disseminate any of the course materials, such as: video and audio files, assignment prompts, slides, notes, syllabus, simulations, datasets, discussion threads. Conversely, any materials created solely by you (for example, your videos, essays, images, audio files, annotations, notes) are your intellectual property and you may use them as you wish.

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

UC Santa Cruz welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation for religious practices. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation without penalty. You should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your instructor early in the term. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the [Dean of Students office](#). [Dean of Students \(ucsc.edu\)](#)

ALL GENDER RESTROOMS

UC Santa Cruz is committed to the well-being of all students and cares about all students feeling safe and welcome, regardless of their gender identity, expression, and/or embodiment. The Lionel Cantú Queer Center has worked with students and campus staff to create more safe and accessible restrooms for transgender and genderqueer students, staff, faculty, alumni, and UCSC visitors. A [complete list of all-gender restrooms](#) [All-Gender Restrooms \(ucsc.edu\)](#) on campus was compiled and is maintained by the Cantú Queer Center.

PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY

The University of California, Santa Cruz expressly prohibits students from engaging in conduct constituting unlawful discrimination, harassment or bias... [More here UC Santa Cruz - Report Hate \(ucsc.edu\)](#). I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity and supports inclusivity. We need to work together to build this community of learning. I ask all members of this class to:

- be open to and interested in the views of others
- consider the possibility that your views may change over the course of the term
- be aware that this course asks you to reconsider some “common sense” notions you may hold honor the unique life experiences of your colleagues
- appreciate the opportunity that we have to learn from each other
- listen to each other’s opinions and communicate in a respectful manner
- keep confidential discussions that the community has of a personal (or professional) nature
- ground your comments in the texts we are studying. Refer frequently to the texts and make them the focus of your questions, comments, and arguments. This is the single most effective way to ensure respectful discussion and to create a space where we are all learning together.

TITLE IX/CARE ADVISORY

UC Santa Cruz is committed to providing a safe learning environment that is free of all forms of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, which are explicitly prohibited under Title IX. If you have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, know that you are not alone. The Title IX Office, the Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) office, and Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) are all resources that you can rely on for support.

Please be aware that if you tell me about a situation involving Title IX misconduct, I am required to share this information with the Title IX Coordinator. This reporting responsibility also applies to course TAs and tutors (as well to all UCSC employees who are not designated as “confidential” employees, which is a special designation granted to counselors and CARE advocates). Although I have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. The goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and that you have access to the resources you need.

Confidential resources are available through [CARE CARE \(ucsc.edu\)](#). Confidentiality means CARE advocates will

not share any information with Title IX, the police, parents, or anyone else without explicit permission. CARE advocates are trained to support you in understanding your rights and options, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. You can contact CARE at (831) 502-2273 or care@ucsc.edu.

In addition to CARE, these resources are available to you:

- If you need help figuring out what resources you or someone else might need, visit the [Sexual Violence Prevention & Response \(SAFE\) website](#), which provides information and resources for different situations.
- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CAPS\) Counseling & Psychological Services \(ucsc.edu\)](#) can provide confidential counseling support. Call them at (831) 459-2628.
- You can also report gender discrimination and sexual harassment and violence directly to the University’s [Title IX Office](#), [Title IX \(ucsc.edu\)](#) by calling (831) 459-2462 or by using their [online reporting tool](#).
- Reports to law enforcement can be made to the UC Police Department, (831) 459-2231 ext.
- For emergencies, call 911.

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and 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 most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR IN-PERSON COURSES (some of the aspects are perhaps relevant for this class [remote synchronous] too)

What we can expect from each other:

Each individual at UC Santa Cruz should act in the best interests of everyone else in our community. Please take care to comply with all university guidelines about masking in indoor settings, performing daily symptom and badge checks, testing as required by the campus vaccine policy, self-isolating in the event of exposure, and respecting others' comfort with distancing. Please do not come to class if your badge is not green. If you forget your mask, you can ask me for one; there is a limited supply of disposable masks in each classroom. If you are ill or suspect you may have been exposed to someone who is ill, or if you have symptoms that are in any way similar to those of COVID-19, please err on the side of caution and stay home until you are well or have tested negative after an exposure. Let me know that you're not feeling well and I'll respond about how best you can keep learning.

What you can expect from me:

I have designed our course following campus guidance and with current public health guidelines in mind. However, these guidelines may change in accordance with shifting infection rates or the emergence of new variants. If updated public health recommendations and university requirements make our current course format unfeasible, or if I experience a need to self-isolate, I will alter the format. This may include moving in-person sessions onto Zoom, modifying course assignments to work in a remote format, and reconfiguring exams (if applicable). I will communicate clearly with you via email or Canvas announcement about any changes that occur. I will provide as much advance warning as possible and give you all the information you need to transition smoothly to the new format. If you have questions about the changes, please reach out to me so I can answer them.

What I expect from you:

If you experience an illness or exposure that requires you to miss class sessions or to attend remotely, please communicate with me as soon as possible and I will provide you with options to allow you to continue making progress in the class. [Alternatively, based on your own plans for instruction, you may want to add specificity to this section; for instance, that you will provide alternative assignments, links to recordings of class sessions, or Zoom links to allow students to participate in class from home.]