

# SYLLABUS

## Economics 100A – Winter 2008

Professor: Philip Babcock

Office: NH 2036

Office Hours: Tu: 12:30-1:30, M: 5:00-6:00

Course Webpage: <http://www.econ.ucsb.edu/~babcock/Econ100a.html>

Teaching Assistants:

Belinda Acuna                      NH2045 [acuna@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:acuna@econ.ucsb.edu)                      O.H. F: 1:00-3:00

Ernesto Boffy-Rameriz          NH2049 [ebr@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:ebr@econ.ucsb.edu)                      O.H. W: 5:00-7:00

James Green-Armytage          NH2015 [armytage@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:armytage@econ.ucsb.edu)                      O.H. M :2:30-4:30

### Lecture:

Tu-Th                      11:00-12:15, GIRV 1004

### Sections:

Green-Armytage                      11684 Dis W 800-850 PHELP 3523

Acuna                                      11692 Dis F 1000-1050 GIRV 2123

Green-Armytage                      11700 Dis W 900-950 BSIF 1217

Boffy-Rameriz                        11718 Dis F 800-850 GIRV 2112

Boffy-Rameriz                        11726 Dis W 200-250 SH 1431

Acuna                                      11734 Dis F 900-950 GIRV 2119

### Prerequisites:

Economics 1 and 2, or Economics 109; and PSTAT 5E; and Mathematics 34A-B.

### Description:

Economic theory relating to demand, production, and competitive product markets with emphasis on applications of theory.

### Course Material:

The required textbook for the course is “Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by Hal R. Varian, W. Norton & Company. There are many other textbooks that could be helpful as (optional) supplements, the most widely used of which is “Microeconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions” by Walter Nicholson. Another resource that I may reference off and on, and which I recommend for the sheer entertainment value, is the freakonomics blog: <http://www.freakonomics.com>.

**Clickers:** We will be using remote “clickers” in class to make class sessions more interactive. These will be required. You may purchase your “clicker” at the bookstore.

### Exams & Grading

Midterm 1: Jan. 29, class time

Midterm 2: Feb. 28, class time

Final Exam: Mar. 20, 12-3 pm.

Your grade will be a weighted average of your performance on Midterm 1 (~25%), Midterm 2 (~25%) and the Final Exam (~50%). The 20-25-50 exam weights are **approximate**, and I might adjust them. There is also a small reward, call it “extra credit,” for consistent attendance in lecture (two or fewer absences). The first midterm exam will only test material covered until then; the second midterm exam will focus on the material taught after the first midterm, but *will* include earlier material as well. The final exam will cover material from the entire quarter. I will assign homework regularly. It is important that you attempt to do all assigned problems, and that you attempt them before you see the solutions. You do not need to turn in the homework problems. The catch is that **answers to the problems not be posted on the web**. The only way to obtain answers is to see the problems worked out in section and office hours.

### Succeeding in the Course

Doing well in this course requires you to not only attend lectures and section, but to practice solving problems. Problem Sets will be available on the course web page. The TAs will work through exercises in section. This will be most beneficial to you only if you have seriously attempted the problems on your own first. **Solutions to the problem sets will *not* be posted on the web**. The TA may not always get to all the problems in section. If you wish for more assistance, you are encouraged to go to TA office hours or my own office hours.

### Administrative Issues

The Economics department offices handles all matters related to dropping or adding the course, wait lists, etc. Please contact them regarding these issues. You are expected to take all three exams. Make-up exams will not be offered. If you have an exceptional medical circumstance, formally **documented** in a doctor’s note, it may be possible to shift weight from a missed midterm to the other 2 exams. If you believe an exam has not been properly graded, you must submit a re-grade request to me by the lecture following the one in which you received your exam back. You must explain clearly why you believe your score is in error. I will then go over the *entire* exam and change your score *either up or down* as is necessary. If you wish to contact me, you may email me at [babcock@econ.ucsb.edu](mailto:babcock@econ.ucsb.edu), but please type ECON 100A in the subject header so that I can identify the message as class-related (rather than Spam!) In general, do please check announcements, syllabus, and other material posted on the course webpage before emailing, as questions may already have been addressed there.

### Schedule of Topics : (Subject to Revision)

DATES	TOPICS	CHAPTERS
Jan. 8	Introduction – Review	1, 2
Jan. 10	Preferences and Utility	3, 4
Jan. 15	Mathematics of Constrained Maximization	3, 4
Jan. 17	Utility Maximization	5
Jan. 22	Demand Functions	6

Jan. 24	Demand Functions	6
Jan. 29	Midterm 1	
Jan. 31	Comparative Statics of Demand	8
Feb. 5	Comparative Statics of Demand	8
Feb. 7	Supply of Factors of Production: Labor	9
Feb. 12	Supply of Factors of Production: Capital	10
Feb. 14	Theory of Production	18
Feb. 19	Theory of Production	18
Feb. 21	Theory of Cost	20, 21
Feb. 26	Theory of Cost	20, 21
Feb. 28	Midterm 2	
Mar. 4	Profit Maximization and Supply	19
Mar. 6	Profit Maximization and Supply	19, 22
Mar. 11	Equilibrium Dynamics of Competitive Markets	23
Mar. 13	Review	
Mar. 20	FINAL EXAM	