

**Econ 104A – A01: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I (5 Units)<sup>1</sup>**  
**University of California, Riverside**  
**Summer 2021**

**Meeting Time:** Tue / Thurs: 2:00 – 4:50 PM  
**Location:** [Zoom link](#) with password “104aecon”

**Instructor:** Opinder Kaur  
**Email:** [okaur001@ucr.edu](mailto:okaur001@ucr.edu)  
**Office hours:** Tue / Thurs: 5:00 – 5:45 PM; [Zoom link](#) with password “104aecon” (or by appointment)

**Teaching Assistant:** Jingyan Guo  
**Discussion Section:** Section A21: Thurs 11:00 AM – 12:50 PM; [Zoom link](#)  
**Office hours:** Fri: 3:00 – 5:00 PM; [Zoom link](#)  
**Email:** [jguo092@ucr.edu](mailto:jguo092@ucr.edu)

\*\* Coming to the Zoom office hours is the best way for me to address your questions. If my office hours don’t work for you, then we can make an appointment to meet through Zoom at a time that better fits your schedule. I also do my best to promptly respond to your emails, but make sure you identify yourself with your full name and course number (**ECON-104A**) when emailing me. Also, please feel free to reach out to me if you ever need anything. \*\*

## **PREREQUISITES**

ECON 003/ECON 003H with a “C-“ or better, MATH 009A or MATH 009HA

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A calculus-based course that develops theories of consumers and firms. Provides the foundation for partial equilibrium study of competitive markets. Explores welfare properties of competitive markets.

## **OUTCOMES AND COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The goal of every economist is to find the most beneficial outcome than can be achieved in the most efficient way. This course will show you how find and understand these outcomes beyond the level that you learned in your principles courses.

This course requires a high level of analysis and rigor. I expect you to be able to do problems correctly and understand the process behind numbers and equations. By the end of this course, you should be able to use a logical and analytical approach to make decisions and understand the decisions of other people, businesses and organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> I have the right to amend this syllabus in any way that I see fit to better serve the class.

To achieve this goal, this course has the following objectives

- Reinforce the material from Econ 003 by modeling concepts mathematically.
- Characterize how consumers and firms make decisions.
- Combine consumer and firm decision theory to build and analyze competitive markets.

## COURSE MATERIALS

1. **(REQUIRED)** iLearn and Zoom where I will post assignments that you must complete for credit. Assignments correspond to each chapter in the text. There are also study resources available and I will communicate with announcements through this platform.
2. **(OPTIONAL)** *Microeconomics*, by Besanko and Braeutigam (any edition is sufficient but 3<sup>rd</sup> edition or newer if preferred)
  - I will follow the outline of this text, but you will not be responsible for knowing material out of this text that isn't covered in class or section. There are many alternatives available that are less expensive than buying this at the bookstore.
  - If you already purchased the 5<sup>th</sup> edition from the bookstore, feel free to return it before the return deadline and find an alternative.

\*\* I will also be emailing to your campus email account and posting grades on [blackboard](#) so please check these frequently. Since UCR is a public institution, email messages are subject to open access requests and other intrusions, so do not state your Social Security Number on any message. \*\*

The class Blackboard site is restricted for use of class-related material. Any files, including videos, are intended for educational use for this class only. The material is subject to copyright laws and should not be downloaded and distributed.

## HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

To be successful in this course, you should do the following

- **Attend or keep up with lecture:** While class attendance is not mandatory or graded, any topic covered in class is fair game for an exam.
- **Be engaged:** I know it can be difficult to stay engaged during classes. To reduce the burden, I try to integrate different formats of lecture into classes. If you make a conscious effort to stay engaged during lectures, it will reduce the amount of time you need to spend outside of class and help you utilize your time more efficiently.
- **Attend TA sections:** Each week the TA will provide practice questions similar to those you will see on exams. The TA will answer questions and show you how to answer these questions, which will help you prepare for exams.
- **Understand the practice questions:** These questions are a good indicator of exam questions. Completing and understanding questions as they are given and reviewing them again before an exam is the best way to study.
- **Ask questions:** Always be willing to ask questions either in class, discussion sections, discussion boards or in office hours.

- **Check iLearn frequently:** I will post announcements and due dates on iLearn. If you frequently check iLearn, you won't miss any important deadlines.

## GRADING ASSESSMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Your course grade is determined by your performance on a midterm, a comprehensive final, assignments, and course engagement. The following will factor into your grade with the corresponding weights:

Midterm: 30%

Assignments: 25%

Comprehensive Final Exam: 40%

Course Engagement: 5%

Here is an example of how you would calculate your final grade. Assume the following percentages were earned of the points possible on each of these assessments: Midterm: 70%, Final Exam: 75%, Assignments: 100%, Course Engagement: 100%. Your final grade percentage is then calculated by  $(0.70 \times 30) + (0.75 \times 40) + (1 \times 25) + (1 \times 5) = 81$ . Compare this number to the grading scale below:

A $\geq$ 93	A- 90-92.99	B+ 87-89.99	B 83-86.99
B- 80-82.99	C+ 77-79.99	C 73-76.99	C- 70-72.99
D+ 67-69.99	D 63-66.99	D- 60-62.99	F < 60

A score of 81 would receive a B- as a final course grade.

TA will post scores and points from classroom assignments on Blackboard as quickly as possible after they are turned in. You will have **one week** from the posting date to appeal or correct that information. After that, no adjustments will be allowed for any reason. It is your responsibility to monitor your grades on a regular basis.

## EXAMS

The course will have one midterm and one final exam. The midterm will be taken during our regularly scheduled lecture time and the final exam will be taken during the time slot assigned to us by the university (<https://registrar.ucr.edu/calendar/final-exam-live>). It will be open-book, open-note and timed. I will provide more details about the format of the exams later in the quarter.

If you miss the midterm with an unexpected but legitimate documented excuse (i.e., death in the family, serious illness), **you must contact me before the exam starts**. If you do that, the weight of the midterm exam will be moved to the final exam (meaning the final exam will be mandatory). There will be no make-up midterms.

If you have an emergency that does not allow you to take the final exam, you will either take a zero on it or you will take an incomplete for the course and take the exam during the next quarter.

## ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 4 discussion section assignments, **which you will upload to the iLearn course page**. They will be posted on Thursdays and will not be due until the following Thursday at midnight.

## COURSE ENGAGEMENT AND CONDUCT

You will receive full credit for course engagement as long as you are a positive member of the classroom community, which implies that you are respectful of others and responsible for yourself. Disruptive class conduct may cause you to lose points for course engagement. Similarly, you may also lose points if you ask for special treatment or make my job more difficult than it should be.

Please note that this classroom should be an environment that is free of bias, discrimination and harassment. If you feel that you have been a victim of inappropriate behavior, feel free to speak with me or access the resources available to you on campus. <http://titleix.ucr.edu/resources/resources.html>.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As a student in this class, it is your responsibility to act with integrity and accountability. I expect that you will complete all exams and assignments in the manner in which they are intended and inform me of suspected acts of academic misconduct by your peers. By doing so, you will affirm the integrity and intellectual work of the University and the degree it represents. Should you choose to commit academic misconduct in this course, you may receive a failing grade. In all cases, you will be reported the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Programs (SCAIP) and you will be held accountable according to the policies set forth by the University. For more Information about the University's Academic Integrity policies, visit <http://conduct.ucr.edu/policies/academicintegrity.html>.

My specific expectations for academic integrity in this class include: no sharing answers on exams, having another person to complete the online homework on your behalf or creating false documentation that legitimizes missing an exam. Please ask for clarification if you have any concerns regarding the definition of academic integrity with regard to this course.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who feels that they may need an accommodation for a disability should talk to the available resources on campus. I will coordinate with them to provide the necessary accommodations.

**Tentative Class Schedule (Exam dates are firm)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Assignments (Due on Thursdays)</b>
1	22-Jun	Ch - 3.1, 3.2	N/A
	24-Jun	Ch - 3.3, 4.1	
2	29-Jun	Ch - 4.2	Assignment #1 due, July 1 at midnight
	1-Jul	Ch - 5.1	
3	6-Jul	<b>Midterm</b>	Assignment #2 due, July 8 at midnight
	8-Jul	Ch - 7.2, 7.3	
4	13-Jul	Ch - 7.4, 8.1	Assignment #3 due, July 15 at midnight
	15-Jul	Ch - 8.2	
5	20-Jul	Ch - 9	Assignment #4 due, July 22 at midnight
	22-Jul		

**Final Exam (comprehensive): Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 PM**