AMS/ECON 11A: Mathematical Methods for Economics, I

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Teaching Assistants

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Teaching Philosophy:

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• You conduct focused hard work, since there is no success without work.

• Hard work and serious scholarship can be fun.
Course Slogans

“We can, we will” -- Motto of the US Army 9th Cavalry Regiment (the Buffalo Soldiers)
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“Try not. Do, or do not. There is no try.”– Jedi Master Yoda
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“Simple, but not easy.” -- Dave Draper
What I expect you to know coming into AMS11A

• Operations on real and complex numbers, polynomials and rational expressions;
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• A passing grade in AMS 3, Math 2B or 3, a score of 31 or higher on the placement examination, or approved transfer credit.
Textbook

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Cheating

- Is cause for dismissal from the University.
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- Devalues everybody’s grade – you should not tolerate it (nor will I).
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• Students who help others cheat are also cheaters.

• Students caught cheating will automatically receive a failing grade and will be reported to their major department and College.
Tips for Success

Ask yourself: 1) What are my long-term goals? 2) What is my behavior? 3) Is my behavior contributing to my long-term goals?
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3. Don't do all your studying in one or two blocks - study 1-2 hours a day, 5-6 days a week: review and revise your class notes, do some of the homework, study the review questions, etc. All in all you should expect to spend 7 - 10 hours (or more) studying outside of class each week.
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4. In addition to studying by yourself, spend several hours a week studying with 1-2 friends - take turns explaining the material to each other, quizzing each other and showing each other how to solve problems.
Hints for Success in a course taught by Mangel (by Kerry Murphy, Fall 1993)

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4. Don't overlook the importance of homework. It is a major portion of your grade and you will be rewarded for time spent.
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5. Do one or two practice problems with your study group each week. They may give insight into your homework, but most of all you will be slowly preparing for the exams. Procrastination will catch up with you in the long run!
The Importance of Study Skills

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We want you to succeed, but it must be a team effort
--This is not High School
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--This is not Community College
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--This is not Community College

--This is the University of California
--This is not High School

--This is not Community College

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--Whatever you did to get here needs to be ramped up
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--Whatever you did to get here needs to be ramped up

Maybe not tonight
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Maybe not tonight

Maybe not tomorrow
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--Whatever you did to get here needs to be ramped up

Maybe not tonight

Maybe not tomorrow

But by Sunday for sure
MSI (Modified Supplemental Instruction) Information

• Provides peer guided interactive group learning sessions
• Offered weekly
• You may attend any MSI session at any time during the quarter without making a weekly commitment.
  • Available on a first come first serve basis.

The main MSI page is:

http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/msi.shtml

and the schedule, once posted, is at

http://eop-apps.ucsc.edu/msi/msischedule.cfm

• Learning Support Services (LSS) offers tutoring that is available to all UCSC students. Generally students met in small groups (up to 4 people per group) lead by a tutor. You are eligible for up to 1 hour of tutoring per week per course, and may sign-up for tutoring at

https://eop-apps.ucsc.edu/OTSS/tutorssignup/

beginning October 6th.

• You must attend MSI first before you are eligible for small group tutoring. Take advantage of this opportunity.
Sections

Sections are not mandatory – but they are intended to help you succeed. In sections you will be reviewing the material by doing exercises and problems and may even get help with homework.

Missing Class

There are many legitimate reasons for missing class. When I miss class, which will happen three times, I will arrange a substitute teacher.

If you are going to miss class because of travel or sickness, arrange a substitute student to take notes – one of your classmates is a good choice.
It is still not clear how large the H1N1 flu pandemic will be, but we must take it seriously. You can find general information for the campus community at

http://www2.ucsc.edu/healthcenter/healthalert.shtml.

If you develop the symptoms of flu (fever and chills AND a cough or sore throat) isolate themselves until at least 24 hours after you are free of the fever. (This would likely be a period of 3-5 days.)

**Do not come to class, but do send an email message to me indicating that you are sick.**
Grades will be determined as follows:

- The average of your 6 highest homework scores: 20%
- Your highest midterm exam: 25%
- Your second highest midterm exam: 15%
- Your lowest midterm exam: 10%
- Your final exam: 30%

Letter grades will be determined as follows: Fail: <50%, D: 50-61%, C: 62-73%, B: 74-86%; A: >86%.
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If you are taking the course P/NP, then you must earn a C or better for a P grade. Also, please note that you need a C or better to enroll in AMS/ECON 11B. Intangibles, such as improvement throughout the quarter, can help in borderline cases, especially at the C/D border.
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There is no extra credit work in this course and no exceptions are made in the grading. So, for example, if you have been told that you need a B- or better to declare as an economics major, and you have concerns about earning the grade you want/need, then please come see me early in the quarter so that we can devise a study plan for you that will help you attain your goals.
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I do not give grades, you earn them.
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I will choose 6 problems from each assignment for the readers to grade. Each problem will be scored 0 [nothing right], 1 [something right], or 2 [perfectly correct] and the entire set of 6 will be given up to 3 points for quality of presentation and effort.
“In the 1990s, mastering first year algebra is an equivalent to the right to vote in the 1960s. It provides hope in the modern world” --- Bob Moses

(pg 613, Taylor Branch. 1998. PILLAR OF FIRE (Simon and Schuster))
…the most urgent social issue affecting poor people and people of color is economic access. In today’s world, economic access and full citizenship depend crucially on math and science literacy.

Moses and Cobb, pg 5
The University of California is a public, research university.

Public:

Your cost -- about $9000 in fees (to run the University)

People of California -- about $16,000 for you (to cover salaries and additional expenses). Two years ago about $20,000

=> Budget crisis

Non-resident tuition: $21,423
Research University: Kinds of scholars here

Undergraduate students
- BA/BS
- Internships
- Senior theses

Graduate students
- MA/MS
- Ph.D.

Post-doctoral researchers

Faculty
- Lecturers
- Assistant, Associate, Full Professors
- Visiting Professors
UCSC is part of the UC system
Faculty are appointed and advanced with a common standard.
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--British Research Assessment Exercise: “A top ranking is comparable to the best universities, such as Harvard, Yale or the University of California”
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--The University of California vs the Big Ten

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Top-Ranked Programs</th>
<th>UC</th>
<th>Big Ten + Penn State</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>59</td>
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UCSC is also unique

• Residential colleges

• A focus on undergraduate research

• A standard load is 3 five unit courses (vs. 3 four unit courses and 1 three unit course). A standard course here is 20% more material than the equivalent at another UC campus.
The invisible hand