ECON 107
Introductory Quiz
This quiz will last 10 minutes.

1. *(12 points)* **Honor Statement:** Please read and sign the following statement:

   I promise that my answers to this test are based on my own work without reference to any notes, books, or the assistance of any other person. I will also neither help others nor use a calculator or other electronic aid for calculation.

   Name and Surname: _
   Student ID: _
   Signature:

   _

2. *(4 points total)* Why should all social scientists assume that their subjects are *rational*–or always are optimizing.

   Solution 1 *The simple answer is* humility*. The people we are studying are, after all, people and so* a priori *we should assume they are as smart as we are ourselves. There is a tendency of those who "live in the ivory tower" (academics) to assume others are stupid, and this assumption frankly just makes us seem stupid.*

   A more complex answer is that assuming others are stupid will often result in our claims being proven false. For example in the US civil war (the war over slavery in the US) a common argument of anti-slave people was that slavery was an "antiquated, out of date, economic system, sure to fail under its own weight." I can still remember how violently I reacted to "Time on the Cross," in which economic historians pointed out this was not true. I (and many others) had assumed southerners were stupid, but they weren't.

3. *(1 Point)* **Midterm timing**: We have class Thursday morning, then another class the following Monday. Circle the day you think would be best for the midterm.

   (a) Thursday night
   (b) Friday night
   (c) Saturday before 6PM
   (d) Sunday before 6PM

4. *(3 points)* Standard feedback questions:

   (a) Out of ten, my level of comprehension of the material covered this week is:

(b) My favorite topic of the week was:

(c) The topic I understood the least this week was: