

Syllabus: ECO 515 – ADVANCED MICROECONOMICS - SPRING 2009

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Office hours: 9:00-10:00 Tuesday or by appointment
Course meetings: MWF 10-10:50 – Merrill Hall 335

Course description and objectives

The first 1/3 of the course attempts to define and illustrate the philosophical and practical underpinnings, and general process of economic research. Topics may include proposal writing, development of research objectives, deciding on a research approach and reporting of results. Data collection topics will be covered in some detail (e.g. data reliability and validity, sampling theory, data collection modes).

The second 2/3 of the course will cover game theory, information economics, and risk and uncertainty. Some topics will be covered in depth, others will be surveyed.

Required textbooks and readings:

Dutta, *Strategies and Game: Theory and Practice*

Given the nature of the course, no one book satisfies as a textbook. In fact, I will be pulling readings from many different sources. Whenever possible I will provide you electronic copies of readings. Other readings will be placed within binders placed in each of the grad quads.

Homework: The course will mainly rely on weekly problem sets taken from the above textbook and supplementary readings. Periodically, other questions will be distributed to students. Unless you have made prior arrangements with me, homework is due by the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Homework may be worked on in groups; if you work as a group you need to only turn in one set of answers (include the names of the people in the group!).

Writing/Oral Assignments: You will be required to do one writing/research assignments. You are to work on the research paper as individuals, not as a class. You will then present your research paper to the class. Plan on each presentation being 20 minutes (15 for the presentation and 5 minutes for questions). Finally, you will design a research poster.

Exams: Exam questions will test the degree of students' understanding of the theory and how it could be applied in professional economic analyses. Exams will be composed of problem sets and essay questions and will be held in the classroom. You are to work on the exam as individuals, not as a class. Exam dates are:

Exam 1: Feb. 20

Exam 2: April 24

Grading: Numerical grades will be used for all exams and homework; letter grades will be assigned only for the overall course grade given at the end of the semester. Plus and minus grading will be used.

Illness or family emergencies are usually the only acceptable reasons for missing an exam or a problem set deadline. If such a problem arises, you need to call or e-mail me before the deadline and provide a written justification for missing the exam (ex.: medical note) ASAP. Then we can discuss alternatives. If you call and I am not in, leave a message with a phone number where I can reach you.

Except for very *extraordinary* circumstances, failing to follow these rules will lead to a grade of zero for the missed exam/homework. Any exam from which one student is excused will be replaced by a make-up exam and I will schedule a make-up at only one time for each exam. Except for very exceptional reasons, no exams will be delayed or postponed.

Requirements:	Grading:	Due dates:
Research Paper:	25	
Reading List & Outline	2	1/23
First Draft	5	2/20
Second Draft (optional)	0	3/25
Final Draft	13	4/17
Research Presentation:	5	week of 4/27
Research Poster:	5	4/20
Homework:	15	
Exam I	25	
Exam II	25	

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please tell me and also contact Ann Smith, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (Onward Building, 581- 2319), as early as possible in the term.