

Syllabus

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Includes the general information, policies, technology requirements, instructor information, instructor's virtual office, student lounge, and getting started.

Site: **Learn@Illinois**

Course: ECON 199 B2 SP17: Undergraduate Open Seminar (Vazquez, J)

Book: Syllabus

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Table of contents

GENERAL INFORMATION

Textbook and Materials

Course Outline

GRADING SCALE

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Problem Sets

Midterm Exams

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

On this page:

COURSE DESCRIPTION/GOAL

SOME COURSE OBJECTIVES

COMMUNICATION AND GETTING YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

COURSE DESCRIPTION/GOAL

Game Theory is the study of how people make strategic decisions when there are multiple players each acting in their own best interests. This course will provide an in-depth introduction to the core concepts along with business applications and everyday uses of game theory. It is a unique course that combines economic theory with practical applications spanning across many disciplines. Real life applications of game theory are found in sports, business pricing, management, politics, law, military strategy, and gaming. After taking this course, students will develop a new perspective on approaching actual decisions encountered daily.

SOME COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course students will be expected to:

determine how individuals make strategic decisions to maximize expected utility

study how businesses make pricing and output decisions to maximize profits

apply bargaining techniques to business applications

analyze the role of information and how it affects strategic outcomes

COMMUNICATION AND GETTING YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

In general, the best way of getting quick answers to your questions is to post question in the Moodle Discussion Forum – TA and Mentor students are monitoring the Discussion groups in a regular basis. So you can expect an answer to your question in a timely fashion.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to abide by the Code and Policies and Regulations. Any work that you submit for evaluation must be your own work, done independently. Any evidence to the contrary will result in an F for the course. If anyone has questions regarding what is considered academic dishonesty, or need a copy of the Code and Policies and Regulations please stop by my office. Scholastic dishonesty also includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Academic misconduct makes the student subject to possible consequences from the University.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you need accommodation related to a disability, please make an appointment during my office hours to discuss your needs. Students requesting accommodation must be registered with Disability Services and provide me with an accommodation letter.

RULES OF CONDUCT IN THE CLASSROOM

As members of the University community, students share in the obligation to maintain a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Accordingly, students are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any class. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom may result, at a minimum, in a request to leave class. Such behavior also violates the Student Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.

Please use your own judgment about what activities are disruptive. Nevertheless, the following are some common examples.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

If you need help:

Only contact your instructor directly if you have a personal question. For all other questions about course content, activities, deadlines, technical problems, etc., please check the Course Q & A to see if someone else has already asked your same question and received a response.

If your question isn't there yet, post your question to the Course Q & A. Feel free to help your peers out if you know the answer!

If you have technical problems, please fill out **this form**.

More about technology in the Technology Requirements section.

TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS

Textbook

Game of Strategy by Dixit, Skeath and Reiley.

- Hardcopy from the Bookstore = about \$114

- **E-book** = \$65

You only need to purchase either the hardcopy OR the e-book; not both. Either one would work fine.

Used copies of the book are also probably ok, just make sure you are reading the correct chapter each week.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Topics	Textbook Chapter
Week 1	Introduction to Game Theory	1 and 2
Week 2	Games with Sequential Moves	3
Week 3	Simultaneous-Move Games: Discrete Strategies	4
Week 4	Simultaneous-Move Games: Continuous Strategies	5
Week 5	EXAM 1	
Week 6	Combining Sequential and Simultaneous Games	6
Week 7	Simultaneous-Move Games: Mixed Strategies	7
Week 8	Strategic Moves	9
Week 9	Exam 2	
Week 10	SPRING BREAK	
Week 11	The Prisoner's Dilemma and Repeated Games	10
Week 12	Collective-Action Games	11
Week 13	Brinkmanship: The Cuban Missile Crisis	14
Week 14	Strategy and Voting	15
Week 15	Exam 3	

GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be assigned only at the end of the semester based on the overall score for the course. **There is no curve in this class.** While I reserve the right to adjust the letter grade cutoffs based on the overall performance of the class, the worst cutoffs students will face will be the following:

Grade	Percent
A+	97.00–100
A	92.00–96.99
A–	90.00–91.99
B+	87.00–89.99
B	82.00–86.99
B–	80.00–81.99
C+	77.00–79.99
C	72.00–76.99
C–	70.00–71.99
D+	67.00–69.99
D	62.00–66.99
D–	60.00–61.99
F	0–59.99

You are expected to complete your work independently, in accordance with **University policy**. Failure to do so will result in strict disciplinary action, including loss of all credit for the assignment, notification of a dean, and possible dismissal from the University. You may work with others on homework, but the final product must be your own.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Below are four type of activities you are required to complete in order to complete the course, along with the weight each of them has towards your final grade. For a detailed description of each activity, click on that particular link in the left-hand navigation of this syllabus.

Course Component	Weight (out of 100)
Moblab and Class Games	25
Problem Sets (2 highest)	25
Midterm Exams (2 highest)	25
Final Exam (1)	25

PROBLEM SETS

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEM SETS?

HOW MANY PROBLEM SETS?

CAN STUDENTS DROP THE LOWEST SCORE FOR OF THE PROBLEM SETS?

WHEN ARE THEY DUE?

DO STUDENTS WORK INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS?

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEM SETS?

The problem sets will be a collection of longer, usually graph and essay, problems students will complete at the end of each of the major three parts of the course.

HOW MANY PROBLEM SETS?

There are three problem sets, each dealing with the concepts for each of the exams.

CAN STUDENTS DROP THE LOWEST SCORE FOR OF THE PROBLEM SETS?

Yes, at the end of the semester I will drop the lowest score of three problem sets before calculating the final score for this part of the course. The remaining two problem sets are weighted equally.

WHEN ARE THEY DUE?

Here are the deadlines for all the problem sets. Problem sets are due at 11:55 pm of the day in which they are due.

Problem set #	Deadline:
Problem Set # 1	Friday Week 5
Problem Set # 2	Friday Week 9
Problem Set # 3	Friday Week 15

WE WILL NOT MAKE ANY EXEPTIONS OF ANY KIND FOR ANY OF THESE DEADLINES. This include technical submission issues. In other words, if a student waits until 11:50pm on Friday of Week 9 to submit Problem Set #1, and the wifi is temporarily disable; the student WILL NOT get an extension.

DO STUDENTS WORK INDIVIDUALLY OR IN GROUPS?

Students are expected to work in teams to complete the problem sets. Therefore, we will only grade one problem set submission for each group; and ALL members of the group will receive the same grade.

MIDTERM EXAMS

When are the Midterm Exams?

When and where are the exams?

How long do you have to complete the Exam?

Are Midterm exams open book?

What to do in case of a missed exam?

What is the format and content of the exams?

About dropping the lowest grade.

WHEN ARE THE MIDTERM EXAMS?

There will be three mid-term exams to be administered on THURSDAY during class the following weeks:

WEEK # 5

WEEK # 9

WEEK # 15

WHEN AND WHERE ARE THE EXAMS?

All the exams are during class time and in our regular classroom.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE EXAM?

The complete class period that day.

ARE THE MIDTERM EXAMS OPEN BOOK?

Yes! All the exams in this class are open book, including the final exam. This means you can use any resources you want, including the internet, to complete the exam.

You are not allowed, however, to receive help from other students during the exam. Therefore, you are not allowed to use your phones, or to open any communication software in your computers.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A MISSED EXAM?

THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UPS FOR A MISSED EXAM! If you missed an exam with a valid excuse, you can either: 1) use this exam as your lowest score and drop it from your grade (see below), or 2) count your score in the final exam as this exam score.

WHAT IS THE CONTENT AND FORMAT OF THE EXAMS?

Each exam is cumulative. This means each exam covers whatever modules you have completed in the course up to the time you take the exam.

ABOUT DROPPING THE LOWEST GRADE.

At the end of the semester I will drop your lowest MID-TERM exam grade.

Dr. José J. Vázquez-Cognet

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Contact Information

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About Me

I teach economics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), where I teach one of the largest face to face sections of Microeconomics in the nation; 950 students. I am also the Coordinator of e-Learning for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS), as well as the Director of LAS Teaching Academy. During my tenure at Illinois I have received several teaching awards, including The *Outstanding Teacher of Freshmen Award*, a campus-wide award given every year by the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. I have also been included in the *List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent* for several consecutive years. Before returning to Illinois, I was the Associate Director of the Teaching and Learning and Center at the University of Texas at San Antonio. I specialize in developing technologies that can be used in large enrollment courses, particularly classroom simulation games and web-based assessments/activities. I have published this work in several academic journals including the *International Journal of Economic Education*, and has presented at numerous academic conferences. I have a new *Principles of Economics* textbook, co-authored with Eric Chiang of Florida Atlantic University, that will be published by Worth Publishers in 2015.