ECON 4070: TOPICS IN MICROECONOMICS
COURSE SYLLABUS
FALL 2011

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Lectures: MWF 10-10:50AM
Location: Muenzinger E431
Office Hours: MW 3-4PM
or by appointments

Course Description
The goal of this course is to introduce modern economic tools and techniques utilized in a range of topics in microeconomics. The course is roughly divided into three parts. Part I focuses on the theory of individual decision-making under uncertainty. Part II covers games of perfect information along with a number of applications, and Part III considers games of incomplete information and discusses such topics as screening, signaling, and contracting. The course assumes a good understanding of calculus and intermediate microeconomics and is intended for those who would like to broaden their skill sets to analyze economic problems beyond the intermediate micro level.

Prerequisites
ECON 3070 (Intermediate Microeconomic Theory)

Textbooks
There is no required textbook for this course.

Grading and Exams
Your course grade will be based on your performance on two in-class prelims, which are not cumulative, and a final, which is cumulative. In calculating your grade, each prelim enters with a weight of 1/4, and the final enters with a weight of 1/2. Regular attendance and class participation can affect your course grade in marginal cases. Letter grades will be assigned using natural cut-off points given a distribution of total scores. There is no excuse for missing an exam unless there is a documented medical or family emergency, in which case an early notice and documents are required. No make-up exams will be given, and a missed exam will result in a zero.

Problem Sets
Several problem sets will be handed out along with answer keys at regular intervals. Those problem sets are not collected but rather serve as study aids for the exams. The problem sets can be a guideline to exam questions, but they are not sufficient for preparing the exams, which will be also based on the lectures. The only way to become proficient at solving problems is to solve it yourself, so I recommend that you try hard these problem sets before consulting the answer keys.

Courtesy Rules
1. Laptops may not be open during lectures.
2. Cell phones must remain salient or turned off.
3. No food and covered drinks only.
4. Please be on time. If you arrive late, enter quietly.
Other Policies

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please see me at least two weeks prior to any conflicts due to religious observances. See full details at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices
If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See polices at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code
Tentative Course Outline

Part I
Week 1  Intro and Utility Representation
Week 2  Expected Utility Theorem
Week 3  Risk Attitudes
Week 4  Risk and Financial Assets
Week 5  Subjective Expected Utility
Week 6  Search Model

First Prelim (7 Oct 2011)

Part II
Week 7  Game Forms
Week 8  Nash Equilibrium
Week 9  Applications
Week 10  Finitely-Repeated Game
Week 11  Infinitely-Repeated Game

Second Prelim (11 Nov 2011): Non-cumulative

Part III
Week 12  Bayesian Game
Week 13  Screening
Week 14  (Fall Break)
Week 15  Signalling
Week 16  Moral Hazard

Final Exam (TBA): Cumulative