



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2006
Course:	Economics 557 [Topics in Economic Theory I]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 15:30 ? 16:45	Place:	SA 121 (subject to change)
Instructor:	B. Curtis Eaton		
Office:	SS 406	Telephone:	220-2672
Office Hours:	W 09:00 ? 12:00	E-Mail:	eaton@ucalgary.ca

Required(s):

Strategies and Games: Theory and Practice, Prajit K. Dutta, MIT, 1st Edition, 1999

Book(s) on Reserve:

none

Course Outline:

In this course you will have a chance to put to work the mathematical tools and economic concepts that you have learned in other courses. We will spend the first two thirds of the course developing and exploring the basic concepts of non-cooperative game theory and the economics of information. The last third of the course will be structured around term papers in which students are expected to apply game theoretic techniques to a problem that interests them. Throughout the course, the emphasis is very definitely on **learning by doing**: in the first two thirds of the course, there will be one assignment per week, it will be quite demanding, and your performance on these assignments will be given a heavy weight in determining your course mark (25% in fact); there will be a number of graded tasks associated with the term paper,

including a written proposal, a 20 minute, in-class presentation, and of course the paper itself; your contribution to class discussion will determine 5% of your final mark. You will be required to use most of the mathematical techniques that you learned in Econ 387 and 389, and all of the core concepts of microeconomic theory. Most importantly, success in this course requires significant mathematical sophistication. We will rely heavily on Dutta's superb textbook, and student's are expected to very carefully work through the assigned reading on their own. Lectures will be devoted to problem solving.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Midterm:	30%
Final Examination:	20%
Homework Assignments:	25%
Term Paper:	20%
In-Class Contribution:	5%

The components of your performance will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and your aggregate performance will be calculated using the weights indicated above. The aggregate performance will be converted to a letter grade. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	95-100	B	75-79	C-	60-62
A	90-94	B-	71-74	D+	55-59
A-	85-89	C+	68-70	D	50-54
B+	80-84	C	63-67	F	0-49

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Calculators **will not** be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours.

Tests and exams **will not** involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Shannon O'Connor

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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Teale Phelps-Bondaroff

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within* fifteen days of the work being returned to the class.
- This course will make use of Blackboard. Students who are registered in the course can logon at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.
- Safewalk/Campus Security 220-5333.

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BCE:pst
2006-09-08