

Economics 109: Game Theory

Fall 2001, Professor Joel Watson

In this course, we will examine strategic situations, where each agent's behavior generally affects the well-being of the other agents. Game theory is a technical framework for rigorously analyzing decision-making in such settings. Almost every type of interaction between living things is strategic. As social scientists, we focus on human interaction, and we shall assume that people behave in a rational, deliberate manner. In addition to exploring theory in the abstract, we will consider a variety of applications from economics, political science, and law.

Schedule: TTh 12:45 – 2:05 (HSS 1330) and Th 5:45 – 6:35 (Center 212), through November 29. The session on Thursday evenings is an optional problem-solving and review session.

Examinations: There will be one midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will be on Tuesday, October 30, during the normal class time. The final exam will take place on Thursday, December 6, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Grading Weights: Midterm 35%; final 45%; problem sets and class participation 20%.

Watson's Office Hours and Location: W 1:30 – 2:30 p.m., immediately after most class sessions, and by appointment. The Thursday evening session will be used for extended office hours and problem-solving. Watson's office is 310 Economics building. If you cannot meet with the professor during his office hours, call or see him after class to arrange another time to meet. Please do not disturb him during other times unless you have an appointment.

Textbook: Watson, J., *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory*, available at the bookstore (in pre-published form).

The fine print:

- (1) Incidents in which students are suspected of cheating on exams will be reported to the administration.
- (2) Students have one week from the day in which the midterm examinations are returned to report errors in grading and/or to request that problems be re-graded. Re-grading may be requested for final exams through the first week of Winter quarter. If a student submits his/her exam for re-grading, then the student's entire exam will be re-graded by the professor (with no guarantee of a higher total score).
- (3) Each student should confirm that all of his/her work through tenth week has been accurately recorded before the final exam takes place. (The professor and T.A. will facilitate this.) Once the final exam begins, all homework and midterm exam grades are fixed as recorded by the professor.
- (4) Students must keep cell phones off, and refrain from distracting behavior, during class.