

Department of Economics Course Outline

Term: Fall 2008

Course: Economics 373 **Section:** 01

[Game Theory and Strategic Thinking

for Social Sciences]

Time: MWF 10:00 – 10:50 **Place:** ST 132

Instructor: B. Curtis Eaton

Office: SS 406 **Telephone:** 220-2672

Office W 12:00-15:00 E-mail: eaton@ucalgary.ca

Hours:

Textbook(s):

Required: Carmichael, Fiona. A Guide to Game Theory, Prentice Hall, 1st edition, 2005.

Book(s) on Reserve:

None

Course Outline: Chapter references in the following outline are to Carmichael's excellent textbook.

- 1. Introduction to games and strategic thinking (Chapters 1 and 2)
- 2. Prisoner's dilemma games (Chapter 3)
- 3. Sequential move games (Chapter 4)
- 4. Imperfect information (Chapter 5)
- 5. Mixed strategies and evolutionary games (Chapter 6)
- 6. Asymmetric information (Chapter 7)
- 7. Repeated games (Chapter 8)
- 8. Bargaining theory (Chapter 9)

I will provide detailed lecture notes. These notes are considerably more important than the textbook.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be one midterm exam (worth 25%), a final exam (worth 25%), approximately 18 inclass quizzes (worth 45%), and oral presentations (worth 5%).

The midterm exam, the weekly quizzes, and oral presentations are designed to reward **diligence**. In particular, most students who diligently prepare for the weekly quizzes will go into the final exam with a sound mark, somewhere in the B to A range. On the other hand, students who do not take the time to prepare for the weekly quizzes will go into the final exam with a weak mark, or will have dropped the course before the final exam.

The final exam is designed to reward **creative problem solving**. Students will find it significantly more difficult than the quizzes and midterm exam, and the average grade will be significantly lower, somewhere in the C range if past experience is any guide.

All work will be marked on a numerical basis, then aggregated, and converted to letter grades. The following *grade conversion chart* is an approximate guide to letter grade equivalents.

I reserve the right to change the grade conversion chart if, in my opinion, a change is necessary to fairly represent student achievement.

Calculators will not be allowed during the writing of tests and final examinations. There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours and held in a classroom. Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic:

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www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) must discuss their work with the Instructor within 15 days of the work being returned to the class.
- 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