

Economics 373(L01)

Game Theory and Strategic Thinking for Social Sciences

Instructor:	Lucia Vojtassak	Lecture Location:	ST 131
Phone:	403 220 6550	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 9:30 – 10:45
Email:	lvojtass@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 336		
Office Hours:	M 9:00 – 9:50 R 13:00 – 13:50 or by appointment		Fall 2018

Course Description:

An introduction to the principles of game theory utilizing a non-mathematical and intuitive approach. The principles of strategic thinking are illustrated by application and examples in economics and other social sciences.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The objective is to develop the ability of students to reason strategically and to understand how game theory can be used to explain social interaction.

Course Outline:

Chapter references in the following outline are to the textbook

1. Introduction to games and strategic thinking (Chapters 1 and 2)
2. Prisoner's dilemma games and Nash equilibrium (Chapters 4, 5)
3. Sequential move games and backward induction (Chapters 3, 6)
4. Mixed strategies (Chapter 7)
5. Uncertainty, asymmetric information and credibility (Chapters 8, 9)
6. Repeated games (Chapter 10)
7. (if time permits) Selected topics: Bargaining theory, evolutionary games, strategy and voting

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 201 and 203.

Required Textbook(s):

Dixit, A., Skeath, S., and Reiley, D. (2015). *Games of Strategy*. 4th Edition. WW Norton.

Reserved Readings:

Dixit, A., Skeath, S., and Reiley, D. (2015). *Games of Strategy*. 4th Edition. WW Norton.

Dixit, A., and Nalebuff, B. (1993). *Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge In Business Politics And Everyday Life*. 4th Edition. WW Norton.

Dutta, P. (1999). *Strategies and Games*. The MIT Press.

Carmichael, F. (2005). *A Guide to Game Theory*. Prentice Hall.

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

4 Tests	17.5% each	70%	Sept 20, Oct 11, Oct 30, and Nov 22, 2018
Final Examination		30%	
		100%	

Grading Scale

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

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

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during his office hours.

Examinations:

1. Tests and final exam will not consist of the multiple-choice questions.
2. Tests will be held in classroom during regular lecture hours and will last 75 minutes.
3. There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours. It will be a comprehensive examination of all-material covered in the course.
4. The tests and exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.
5. All examinations will be closed-book.
6. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the exams be written early. Students unable to write the exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department. Any student who finds it necessary to miss the one or more of the tests must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate or other required documentation in order to have the weighting adjusted.

7. Examinations will not be given before the indicated examination date. For further information see the 2018-2019 Calendar.
8. The use of a simple calculator during test and examination is permitted. The use of graphing calculators, cell phones, tablets and computers is not permitted.

Email Policy:

Please note that the following types of emails will receive no response: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails in which the sender has not identified which course and section he/she is taking; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on this course outline.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, , see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

Important Dates

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Student Organizations

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics

www.ucalgarysue.com

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only. Taking photographs with any camera/electronic device is prohibited without prior approval.