

Economics 373 (L01)

Game Theory and Strategic Thinking for Social Sciences

Instructor: L. Vojtassak
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Lecture Location: ZOOM Delivery
Lecture Days/Time: TR 12:00 – 14:45

Office: ZOOM Delivery
Office Hours: M 9:00 – 9:50 and T 15:00 – 15:50

Spring 2021

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 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. By the end of the course students are supposed to be

1. Able to build a model of a strategic situation with simultaneous moves;
2. Able to recognize many of such strategic situations in their lives, and in the environment around;
3. Able to use concept of best response and dominant strategies in equilibrium thinking;
4. Able to assess the equilibrium from the efficiency point of view;
5. Able to model and analyze strategic situation in games where representative player is one of many players of one or few types and apply it to (asymmetric) public goods problems;
6. Able to understand expected utility approach, how to use it and its implication in analysis of the individual attitude toward the risk;
7. Able to build and solve strategic situation where the actions are chosen randomly and use this concept in the equilibrium thinking of the evolutionary games;
8. Able to build a model of a strategic situation with sequential moves, analyze subgame perfect equilibrium and assess its optimality;
9. Able to understand how to use credible promises and threats in a clever way of manipulating the world to own advantage and apply it in individual situations, common pool problems, firms' positioning strategies;
10. Able to solve repeated "prisoners' dilemma" type games with not efficient equilibrium and suggest alternative strategies with credible promises and threats in richer strategy space that would support more efficient outcome.

Course Outline:

May 6 – 11, 2021	1. Introduction to games and strategic thinking	1, 2, 3.1 – 3.3, 4
May 11 – 20, 2021	2. Prisoner's dilemma games and Nash equilibrium	4, 5, 11,
May 20 – 27, 2021	3. Uncertainty, asymmetric information and credibility	4, 9, 11, appendix 7

May 27 – June 3, 2021	4.	Mixed strategies and evolutionary games	4, 7, 9, 12
June 3 – 15, 2021	5.	Sequential move games and backward induction	3, 4, 8, 11
June 17, 2021	6.	Repeated games	3, 10

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 201.

Required Textbook(s):

Dixit, A., Skeath, S., and McAdams, D. (2020). *Games of Strategy*. 5th Edition. WW Norton.

Recommended Textbook(s):

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.

Online Delivery:

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

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.

Lectures:

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

5 tests	10% each	50%	50 minutes within 24-hour period <u>ending on</u> May 18, May 25, June 1, June 8 and June 15, 2021 at 12:50 pm
Participation		15%	Participation in games and discussions
Final Examination		35%	
		100%	

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

A passing grade on minimum of 65% of the course work is required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

If a student's letter grade on the final exam exceeds their midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) may be transferred to the final exam at the discretion of the instructor. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

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. [See https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html).

The tests are take-home exam designed and intended to be completed in 50 minutes. The exam will be OPEN book. The exams will be available on D2L. Student will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Student will have 50%-time extension (25 minutes) to complete the exam, at a time of their choosing, within a 24-hour period determined by the instructor.

The final examination will be take-home, comprehensive, and scheduled by the Registrar. Students will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. Student will have three hours to complete the exam, at a time of their choosing, within the 24-hour period that begins 24 hours before the end date of the Registrar's scheduled final exam for this course. The exam is designed and intended to be completed in two hours. The exam will be OPEN book.

All other course components will also be accessed, submitted, and returned through D2L.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions and / or fill-in-blank questions.

The pop-up quizzes for participation mark will be a multiple-choice or fill-in-blank short quizzes completed online in D2L. Students who cannot attend a class for a valid reason should contact instructor for additional assignment equivalent to in class participation.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/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.

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>

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

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
E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:
<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

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! 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].

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

Notes:

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

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