

## **Economics 109: Game Theory**

Fall 2003, Professor Joel Watson

This course examines strategic situations, in which 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 9:30 – 10:50 a.m. in Center Hall 113. There will also be a problem-solving/discussion session on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 7:50 p.m., in Center Hall 105.

**Examinations:** There will be one midterm examination and a final examination. The midterm exam will take place on Tuesday, October 28, during the normal class time. The final exam will be on Friday, December 12, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

**Quizzes/Problem Sets:** Weekly problem sets will be assigned. There will also be occasional in-class quizzes (students who are absent from class will fail these).

**Grading Weights:** Midterm 35%; final 45%; problem sets/quizzes/class participation 20%.

**Watson's Office Hours and Location:** T 1:45 – 2:30 p.m., W 2:00 – 3:00 p.m., and by appointment. Room 128 in the economics building will be used for office hours when many students are present. The Tuesday evening session will also 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 at other times unless you have an appointment.**

**Required Textbook:** Watson, J., *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory*.

**Class Website:** <http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jwatson/wcourse.htm> (check regularly for announcements).

**Teaching Assistant:** to be announced.

### **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) Students should attend and participate in class; their mobile phones should not. The professor will employ the necessary means to discourage classroom distractions.

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