# Economics 109: Game Theory
Winter 2013, 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:** W 5:00 – 7:50 p.m. in Solis 104.  There are also problem-solving/discussion sessions on Thursdays (8:00 – 9:50 p.m. in Solis 104).  Lectures will be podcast at http://podcast.ucsd.edu/.  There will be no class meetings on university holidays.

**Examinations:**  There will be one midterm examination and a final examination.  The midterm exam will take place on Monday, February 4, from 7:00 to 8:50 p.m. in Center 109.  The final exam will be on Monday, March 18, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Quizzes/Problem Sets:**  Weekly problem sets will be assigned.  There may also be occasional pop quizzes in class or on the Internet (through ted.ucsd.edu).

**Grading Weights:**  Midterm 30%; final 50%; problem set completion (not graded)/quizzes 20%.

**Required Textbook:**  Watson, J., *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory* (W.W. Norton), **SECOND EDITION**.

**Class Website:**  Materials will be posted at https://ted.ucsd.edu/ on the page for Economics 109.  Students should log in regularly and check for announcements.  Watson's web site is: http://weber.ucsd.edu/~jwatson/wcourse.htm .

**Class Competitions:** If schedules permit, there may be a few optional competitions between the professor/TAs and the students.

**Teaching Assistants, Office Hours, and Responsibilities:**  Andrew Brownback (abrownback@ucsd.edu, Econ 128), Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Patrick "Mitch" Downey (pmdowney@ucsd.edu, Econ 119), Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.; Camille Briat (cbriat@ucsd.edu), Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in Sequoyah Hall 231.

**Watson's Office Hours and Location:** Mondays, 2:30 – 3:45 p.m., occasional extra sessions, and by appointment.  Office hours will usually take place in Econ 304 (check in Econ 310 if no one is present in Econ 304).  There will be no office hours on university holidays.  **Please do not disturb Watson outside of office hours unless you have an appointment.**

## 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.  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 and other devices should not.  The professor will employ the necessary means to discourage classroom distractions.

# Course Outline

Not all topics/chapters will be covered.