

ECONOMICS 100AH: HONORS MICROECONOMICS

Fall 2014

Mon 4:00-4:50pm

Sequoyah Hall 244

Professor Mark Machina

Office: Econ Bldg 217

Office Hours: Mon 1-4pm

The purpose of ECON 100AH is to give you an opportunity to explore a specialized topic of your interest, learn a bit about other interesting topics in consumer theory, and hone your presentation skills. Your task is to select a published paper from the economics literature and present it to the class as if you were its author presenting it at a conference, in a manner which makes it accessible to the other students and teaches them some interesting economics which they wouldn't ordinarily get in a regular lecture course. No term paper is required.

I'll work with you in selecting a paper on a topic which interests you, and which is not too hard for you to absorb and present. I'll also be available during the quarter to go over the paper with you, as well as discuss your presentation strategy.

The course requirements consist of an ungraded 20-minute practice presentation in the middle of the quarter, and a graded 30-minute final presentation some time during 10th week. Each student must also attend at least four presentations other than their own. There will be a short final exam with simple questions to make sure you've gotten the basic idea of the other presentations you've attended.

Besides exposing you to a topic of your interest and topics of interest to your classmates, this course provides you an opportunity to develop research and presentation skills that you would be unable to do in regular lecture courses. The research skills will be of use to you if you decide to go to graduate school in economics or some other discipline, and the presentation skills will be of even more use in job interviews. This type of interaction and performance in the course will also put me in a position to write a more detailed and positive letter of recommendation than I could otherwise write, both for graduate school or job applications.

Your presentation should address and explain the following types of things:

1. What is the basic idea of the paper?
2. How does the paper go about pursuing the idea?
3. What did you learn from the paper?
4. Do you see any problems with or have any criticisms of the paper?

Can you say anything about how you might extend or push the paper further?

5. Any other thoughts or opinions you might have about the paper or topic.