

## **Economics 182: Topics in Microeconomics (Research)**

Winter 2010, Professor Joel Watson

This course examines a few topics in applied game theory. In teams, the students will participate in research projects, culminating in written output and presentations.

**Schedule:** Wednesday evenings, typically starting at 7:00 p.m. in Sequoyah Hall 231. Some class sessions will be moved to a different day/time. Students are welcome to bring food to the class session.

**Objectives and Assignments:** Students will complete the following tasks.

1. *Main project* – This will involve conducting research in teams, with some guidance from Watson. Students will read and evaluate part of the technical literature and write a short paper (or other suitable output).
2. *Miscellaneous research tasks* – Occasionally, Watson will ask students to perform a modest task on a research project that is separate from the students' main projects.
3. *Presentation and discussion leadership* – For almost all class meetings, one or more of the students will be in charge of the session. This will involve either presenting the results of their main projects, giving an update on the project, summarizing a paper from the literature, or leading a discussion. ALL STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO READ ANY PAPERS TO BE DISCUSSED AND EVERYONE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION. The session leaders will distribute materials for the other students to review in advance.
4. *Feedback to colleagues* – Students will be required to comment on the work of the others in the class. This may involve writing a short report.

**Tentative Project Descriptions:** The following projects are suggested, but there is room to add more and adjust these.

- Exploring examples of strategic analysis in the media (business, politics, etc.).  
The output could be the design and implementation of a web site.
- Analysis of some applications to environmental economics.
- Documenting characteristics of commercial contracts and their specifications for dispute resolution.
- Conducting a literature search on overlapping contractual relationships.

**Examinations:** Sometime during finals week (perhaps at the final examination time) the students will make final presentations.

**Grading:** The student's course grades will be determined by their performance on the tasks noted above, including participation in class discussions.

**Watson's Office Hours:** Mondays 11-1. Also, Watson will schedule meetings outside of class time to discuss projects with individual teams.