

ECONOMICS 100BH: HONORS MICROECONOMICS

Winter 2013

Tues 12:30 – 1:20pm

Sequoyah Hall 244

Professor Mark Machina

Office: Econ Bldg 217

Office Hours: Wed 9am-1pm

The purpose of ECON 100BH is to give students an opportunity to explore a specialized topic of their interest in the theory of the firm or the theory of competitive markets, by selecting an important research paper in their topic, and presenting that paper as if they were its author presenting it to a conference (a standup oral presentation along with slides). Students will receive help in selecting their papers and in learning background material, and I'll be available to discuss their papers and presentation strategy prior to the presentation. No term paper is required. The course grade will be based on the student's own presentation and slides, and on a final exam consisting of simple questions on each of the presentations (to ensure that everyone listens to everyone else's presentation). If you think you might be interested in Graduate or Professional School sometime down the road, taking the Honors Section and doing a nice job is a terrific way to line up a great letter of recommendation.

The course grade will be based on regular participation in our meetings (~20%), your own presentation (~60%) and the final exam (20%). The presentation should last approximately 30 minutes, and your goal is to explain to the rest of us the following 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 have about the paper or topic.