

ECONOMICS 100BH: HONORS MICROECONOMICS

Winter 2016

Tues 5:00-5:50pm

Sequoyah Hall 244

Professor Mark Machina
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Office: Econ Bldg 217

Hours: Wed 8am-12pm

The purpose of Econ 100BH is to give you an opportunity to explore a specialized topic of your interest, learn a bit about other interesting topics in microeconomics, and hone your presentation skills. Your task is to select a published paper from the economics literature, present a brief tutorial to the class on the background economics it makes use of, and then present the paper 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 strategies.

The course requirements consist of the two presentations as well as a required attendance at some of the other presentations: specifically, at least three presentation days in addition to your own.

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. 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.

Deadline for choosing your paper: Friday, January 15 (end of second week)

Tutorial presentations: Sunday-Saturday, January 24-30 (fourth week).

Final presentations: Saturday-Friday, March 5-11 (tenth week).

Links to Doodle.com schedule signup pages (indicate your available time slots):

Tutorial presentation: <http://doodle.com/poll/7dc94ewp7avdqsk5>

Final presentation: <http://doodle.com/poll/qs8t4hw86b2b9ib>