



Brown University

Economics 1870 – Game Theory and Applications to Economics

Fall 2009

Professor: Geoffroy de Clippel (declippel@brown.edu)

Class meets MWF 2-2:50pm (Bio Med 291)

Office hours: M 11am-noon (Robinson hall, room 102 D)

I am also available to arrange individual appointments to further explain the material.

Teaching Assistant: Francisco Campos-Ortiz (Francisco_Campos-Ortiz@brown.edu)

Students may choose to attend *either* section C01 that meets W 12-12:50pm (Kassar House FOX), *or* section C02 that meets W 7-7:50pm (Kassar House FOX). Starts on September 23.

Office hours: T 2-4 pm (70 Waterman St., room 208)

Francisco is also available to arrange individual appointments to further explain the exercises.

Overview: This course introduces the basic tools of game theory, a branch of economic theory that studies *interactive decision making*.

Prerequisites: Econ 111 or 113, and a statistics course (Econ 162 or 163, or Math 161, or Applied Math 165). Your willingness to work hard is essential for a good understanding of the subject.

Textbook: *Game theory for applied economists* by Robert Gibbons, Princeton University Press

Course website: available through mycourses.brown.edu

Grading: Your numerical grade in the course will be determined as a weighted average of your scores on the weekly assignments, the midterm, and the final exam. The weights are:

Weekly assignments	30%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%

I will take into account the absolute value of this numerical grade, as well as its relative position in the overall distribution, to decide on the final letter grade for the course.

Weekly assignments: A new homework assignment will be available in class most every Monday (exceptions the week of the midterm, and depending on how fast we progress in the material – exceptions will be clearly notified in class and via mycourses), and will also be posted on the class webpage on that same day. The first homework assignment will be distributed on September 21. Assignments are due within a week – the precise deadline being on Mondays at 4pm. Please place your solution set in Francisco's mailbox (in the basement of Robinson hall), or give it to me at the end of the class. Francisco will then correct the assignments, and post answer keys on the website on the following Friday by 4pm. Missing a deadline means a zero score. Assignments must be solved individually.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will take place on Friday October 23, in place of the regular class. No alternative date will be arranged. Students will not be allowed to consult any material during the exam.

Final exam: The final exam will cover the *entire* material, and will last at most two hours and a half. Please be aware that the course falls in the examination section number 07, and hence the final exam will be held on December 14, at 9am. No alternative date will be arranged. Students will not be allowed to consult any material during the exam.

Complaints regarding grades: Francisco will grade all the weekly assignments, as well as both the midterm and final exams. The average grade for the class will be indicated in the answer keys that will be posted online after each assignment and each exam. The corrected assignments and exams will be available in the class mailbox (in the basement of Robinson hall) at most five days after the deadline or the date of the test. Students then have at most *nine* days to introduce a complaint regarding a grade (that means at most two weeks after the deadline or the date of the test). I deal personally with all complaints. Requests must be placed in my mailbox situated in Robinson hall (room 103). I expect them to be specific and motivated. This means that you must include a copy of the question(s) that need(s) to be re-graded, a copy of the answer(s), and an explanation as to why the question(s) need(s) to be re-graded. If I find the request motivated, then I will re-grade these question(s) myself (which may possibly result in a lower grade if I find it justified). My decision is final.

I am happy to meet students that want to receive more information regarding their final letter grade. Please contact me before January 31 to request an appointment on that matter.