Course Information

Lectures

Lectures will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays in Baker Library at HBS beginning at 10:00 (not 10:07). The room is Baker Library 102 at HBS. This room is accessed from the main lobby of the Library. If you enter under the pillars and the room is on your right. Please be on time for class. I make an irrevocable commitment to end by 11:20, giving everyone 17 minutes to get back across the River.

Pre-class Coffee on Tuesdays

I like talking informally with people in the class very much. We can discuss my part of the course, any of the other parts of Economics 2010a,b, anything else in economic theory, in other areas of economics, or life in general. We have free coffee (not the best, but not bad) available in the center of the 4th floor of Baker Library, every day. When you get upstairs you can’t miss it. I will be there before every Tuesday class, at least from 9:30 until we have to go downstairs before 10. Please avail yourself of this as often as you like.

Other opportunities to meet

My HBS office is in Baker Library 469 in the NOM group. I regard office hours as an integral part of the course and encourage everyone to make use of this opportunity. Generally I am available for office hours after class on Tuesdays after class. If that is not a good time for you, send me an email and we will work out something else. I also respond to emails about substantive questions related to the lectures with as quick a turn around as I can manage – usually immediately. I think it is important to clear up doubtful points as early as possible. That is the way to maximize the effectiveness of studying. So please write your questions down as soon as you think of them. In my experience, if one person has a question it is highly likely that other people had the same question. So whenever you ask something you will be creating large positive externalities for your classmates!

Contact Information

My Economics office is Littauer 326. My assistant in the Economics Department is Kristen Lynch, Littauer 1st floor, klynch@fas.harvard.edu

My HBS office is Baker 469. My assistant at HBS is Michael Skocay, Baker Library 4th Floor, mskocay@hbs.edu

Both Kristen and Michael will be very helpful if you need to reach me.
Email address: jgreen@hbs.edu

Sections and our Teaching Fellow

Our TF is Linh Tô. For those who have not met Linh, she is a G3 who did extremely well in this class when she took it and was an outstanding TF in it last year. We are all very fortunate to have her as part of the course.

Linh’s office hours: Thursdays 5:30-6:30 in Littauer M6, Fridays 3:30-4:30 in Littauer M42
Sections will meet: Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30, Fridays 2:00-3:30, both in Science Center 105

Lecture Materials

Printed lecture notes and diagrams will be distributed at the lectures. Usually, I will also distribute a set of hand-drawn diagrams. The intention is to make it easier for you to take notes, right on the hard copies. This is especially true for the diagrams which are sometimes complex; it is better to have them in front of you than to try and make them yourself in the middle of the lecture. Lecture notes, section notes, problem sets and answers will be posted to the course website very soon after the lecture is given.

Problem Sets

There will be four problem sets. Problem sets are due on Thursdays, March 29, April 7, 14, and 21. They will be graded and returned one week after they were due. Details of topics covered in each problem set and their coordination with the lecture schedule are given in the file “Problem Set Schedule” on the course website.
Guide to syllabus and reading list:

The literature related to the topics in this part of the course is vast. There is no way that I can, or should, put all the relevant readings on the course list. Here I have put only things that I find useful for an initial approach to the subject. The following is intended to be a guide so that you can be selective about what to read and when to read it. **If you are interested in going deeper into any particular area, please let me know and I will give you some guidance.**

- Sections of MWG should be read **before** the relevant lecture
- **L** = will be covered in the lecture, a good reference for you to read **afterward**
- **M** = will be mentioned briefly in the lecture. You may want to read it after I have given an introduction to the subject, but it is **not required**

I. Social Choice

Lectures 1 & 2 – March 22 & 24 – Introduction and Choice under Majority Rule

MWG 21B


Lecture 3 – March 29– Social Choice using Pairwise Vote Totals


Lecture 4 – March 31 – Arrow’s Theorem and Extensions
MWG 21 C,D, MWG 22 D


II. Cooperative Game Theory

Lecture 5 – April 5 – Cooperative Game Theory: Basic Concepts and the Shapley Value
MWG 18 Appendix A and 22.F


Aumann, R. (1978) Lecture Notes on Game Theory, Westview Press ch.3 (L)


Lecture 6 – April 7 – Shapley Value, Large Games
MWG 18.A. and 22 F (continued)

Lecture 7 – April 12 – EANS, Core, Nucleolus, NTU Games
MWG 22.E

Osborne-Rubinstein chs. 14, 15 (L)

Aumann, R. (1989), chs. 4, 7 (L)


III. Incentives and Mechanism Design

Lecture 8 – April 14 – Adverse Selection and Signaling
MWG 14.B.and C


Lecture 9 - April 19 Mechanism Design: Dominant Strategies
MWG. 23 C


Lecture 10 - April 21 Mechanism Design: Bayesian Implementation
MWG 23 D-F

Bolton and Dewatripont, ch. 12 (M)


Lecture 11 - April 26 Interim Participation, Posterior Implementation and other Topics in Incentive Theory
MWG ch. 23 A-B