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Econ 1080

- **Harvard College/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences:** 160361
- **Term:** 2024 Fall / Full Term
- **Course Instructor(s):** Jerry Green
- **Location:** Littauer Ctr M15 (FAS)
- **Meeting Time:** Wednesday 03:45 PM - 05:45 PM
- **Exam Group:** FAS15_F
- **Course Description:**

This course surveys the most important results in microeconomics that have shaped the field in the years since WWII. It has two objectives: (i) To understand how the questions were posed, who the main researchers were, and what external influences drove them to approach the subject as they did. This 1/2 of the course is the modern history of micro-economic thought. (ii) The major results themselves. This 1/2 of the course is quite technical. Class participants will present proofs of the results drawn from the literature. A paper is required at the end of the term. The paper will take one result, or a tightly grouped set of results, and must address both of the objectives of the class as stated above.

The major theorems covered come from choice theory under certainty and uncertainty, general equilibrium theory, non-cooperative game theory, cooperative game theory, social choice and incentive theory.

Course goals:

The main goal is to do something very interesting....provide a road map to the changes that determined how the field of economics has become what it is today. Seventy or more years ago economics was completely different. The changes have mainly been that it is more deductive as a science and has a much stronger theoretical basis. This relies on the use of mathematics, in a way that all modern economists will understand, and no one would have imagined back in the 1940s or 1950s.

Course format:

There is one two-hour lecture per week and one two-hour section meeting. Intensive discussions with the instructor and the TF in office hours are an integral part of the course. Three papers are required. There will be a few small problem sets.

Typical enrollees:

Most enrollees are from economics, computer science, pure or applied mathematics and the like. The course is also suitable for History of Science concentrators, those in Social Studies, and in some special concentrations. Most enrollees, but not all, are thinking about going to graduate school in one of these subjects. Some have gone on to Law School, or to joint degree programs between a professional school and an economics department. The course gives all of these people a big head start on the graduate courses that they will take in the first year. It is also a test of how much the student will like that type of education going forward.

Absence and late work policies:

We expect everyone to attend all the time. If that becomes infeasible for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible and we will find the best way for you to make up that absence.