835 Section Syllabus & Introduction

TA: Sarah Bouchat (bouchat@wisc.edu)

Spring 2015

Overview of Section

My goal in section is to aid you in applying the material from lecture to complete problems and solve models. I aim to help you understand the material better, complete assignments, and prepare for exams. In order to do that, we will review key concepts from each week's lecture, then work through some practice problems that are analogous to those found on problem sets to give you more experience with the material. We won't work directly on problem set questions during section in order to give everyone a chance to attempt them on their own first. I will also answer questions and clarify anything from lecture that you would like to review. I will bring printed section handouts each week.

A note on section attendance: I am not grading section attendance or participation, but please note that if you are not attending section and are asking for additional office hours time I may not be as accommodating. Also, please attend one section consistently if you can. If you have a conflict on a particular day, this is no problem; just let me know in advance.

Feedback

If there is anything I could be doing to help you understand and learn this material better, please always feel free to let me know in person or by email. I have also created a section of my website that allows you to submit feedback anonymously if you would prefer. You will find this form under 835 Section Survey. You can access that survey any time to let me know if there are topics in the class that you would like me to review or clarify in section. You can also use that survey to let me know if you would like to propose changes to the format of section, or if you would like to offer general feedback. **If you would like to propose a topic for review/clarification, please submit the form by 12 noon on Tuesday of each week.** This will give me enough time to incorporate that topic into section materials.

Problem Sets

Please remember to staple and write your name on your homework. If your homework is not typeset, please write as legibly as possible for your own sake. Also, whether you are able to answer the question or not, **please show all of your work**. I want to give you as much credit as possible, and while the homework will not be graded according to whether you got answers correct, it will be graded according to whether you demonstrated effort to answer each question.

Problem sets will be graded on a check/check plus/check minus basis. Check plus assignments will show exceptional understanding and mastery of the material for the week; a check indicates that you are performing in accordance with expectations and to keep up the good work; a check minus indicates that you may want to come see me in office hours and/or carefully review the problem set solutions. **Problem sets are due in my North Hall mailbox.**

A note on format: In this course, you are not expected but are **strongly encouraged** to start developing skills in LaTeX, a markup language and typesetting facility that will allow you to represent the mathematical models we learn in this course. To facilitate learning, I'll post some materials each week on my website (http://bouchat.github.io) with some of the key packages and commands you might want to use.

Academic Misconduct

You should absolutely form study groups to work on problem sets and prepare for exams together. However, each student must turn in homework individually. Please do not simply copy answers from a classmate; you won't learn the material, and it won't help you on exams or in your academic career. If you have questions about this, please ask me.

Contacting Me

Please feel free to talk to either me or Alex about your questions or concerns regarding the course. You can always reach me via email at bouchat@wisc.edu. I will usually be able to respond the same day; this is less guaranteed on weekends. If the question is regarding homework, please be as specific as possible. Otherwise, come see me in...

Office Hours

You can also come talk to me during my weekly office hours (subject to change). These office hours are:

Tuesday 1.15–2.15 pm
Wednesday 3.15–4.15 pm
Thursday 9.45–10.45 am

I'll hold my office hours in Aldo's Cafe, which is located in the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery at 330 North Orchard Street.

If you cannot attend regular office hours, I'm happy to schedule an alternative time by email.

Introduction to Game Theory

What is game theory?

How do we define a game?

What does it mean to "solve" a game or model?

Looking ahead: Preference relations, utility, and social choice