

ECON 8854 Industrial Organization II
Spring 2019 Syllabus

Last Updated: January 14, 2019

Class Time: Monday 3:00-4:15 pm / Wednesday 12:00-1:15 pm

Classroom: Maloney 330

Instructors:	Professor Michael D. Grubb	Professor Charles Murry
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Offices:	341 Maloney Hall	382 Maloney Hall
Office hours:	By appointment. Sign up online, or e-mail.	By appointment.

Course Materials

- Professor Grubb’s course materials including readings, lecture notes, reading guides, and problem sets are available on Canvas.
- Professor Murry’s course materials including a detailed schedule, papers, and problem sets are available at <https://github.com/charliemurry/grad-IO>.

Course Requirements

1. Problem Sets / “Quizzes” (40%): Problem sets will be announced throughout the semester.
2. Class Discussion, Paper Presentations, & Referee Report (30%): Please read assigned papers and participate in discussion.
3. Research Proposal & Presentation (30%): See below.

Problem Sets

You are encouraged to work together in groups, but each student must write up their own solutions independently. Handwritten assignments should be scanned to PDF in the copy room and uploaded to Canvas. Computational problem sets must be typed up and accompanied by well-documented source code. Additional problem sets may be assigned throughout the course.

1. Production Function problem set due Monday, Feb. 4 at 9:00am.

2. Endogenous Products problem set due Monday, March 4 at 9:00am (tentative).
3. Nonlinear Pricing: Due to Canvas by Sunday March 17th at 4:30pm.
4. Search & Switching Costs: Due to Canvas by Sunday April 7th at 4:30pm.
5. Insurance: Due to Canvas by Sunday April 14th at 4:30pm.

Also, Professor Murry reserves the right to give a “quiz” at any point during the semester. These quizzes will typically be announced ahead of time and take the form of prepping a short slide deck on the assigned reading. One student will be chosen at random to present their slide deck.

Paper Presentations

Everyone will be expected to present one paper and lead the discussion the Grubb half of the course.

Referee Report

A referee report may be required. TBA.

Research Proposal & Presentation

During the final week of classes, students will present research proposals in class. Research proposals will be due on the last day of class, May 1. Midway through the course, one class will be devoted to a check-in on research proposal progress. Please come prepared to discuss your ideas, progress, and any road blocks at this class. Final research proposals should be relatively short (about 6 pages in length) but of high quality. This should be very difficult to write. Please include four main sections:

1. Research Question: Define the research question and explain why it is important.
2. Data: Describe the data you will use. You can describe a hypothetical “dream” dataset, but even better would be to describe an actual dataset or data structure that you have some chance of obtaining.
3. Model: Sketch a simple model that informs your approach. This could be a purely theoretical model, perhaps simplified to an example, that informs your question and motivates reduced form analysis. Alternatively, this could be a simplified version of a model that might be estimated with data, that can help illustrate the role of key parameters.

4. Methods: Describe the methods you will use to answer the research question using the data, and discuss how key parameters of interest can be identified.

Research proposal presentations should convey the same information. Presentations should follow the advice for effective presentations on the Canvas course website.

You may not submit the same research proposal being used for another class in the spring semester. You may submit a research proposal for an ongoing project previously submitted for a class proposal in the prior semester as long as you demonstrate a semester's worth of progress. (Please submit last semesters submission for comparison.)

Academic Integrity

It is our obligation to remind you that you are expected to uphold all Boston College standards of academic integrity, as described at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/integrity.html>.

Syllabus Notes

- Please refer to separate syllabus documents from Prof Murry and Prof Grubb for details on each half of the course.
- This is a new course that is still under development, so please expect the syllabus to evolve over the semester.

Expectations Beyond the Class

- We expect you to attend the Applied Microeconomics Seminar 12:00-1:30pm on Tuesdays if it does not conflict with other classes.
- We expect you to attend all job talks given in the department that you are able to attend. These can give you an excellent sense of where you should be aiming to be in 3 years time.
- Additional expectations for students completing a dissertation in applied micro should be read here: <https://goo.gl/NimT6b>.

Schedule for Grad IO II					
EC 8854 Industrial Organization II - Spring 2019					
Class	Day	Time	Date	Topic	Who is teaching
1	Monday	3:00-4:15	1/14	TBA	Murry
2	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	1/16	TBA	Murry
	Monday	3:00-4:15	1/21	NO CLASS, MLK day	
3	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	1/23	TBA	Murry
4	Monday	3:00-4:15	1/28	TBA	Murry
5	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	1/30	TBA	Murry
6	Monday	3:00-4:15	2/4	TBA	Murry
7	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	2/6	TBA	Murry
8	Monday	3:00-4:15	2/11	TBA	Murry
9	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	2/13	TBA	Murry
10	Monday	3:00-4:15	2/18	TBA	Murry
11	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	2/20	TBA	Murry
12	Monday	3:00-4:15	2/25	TBA	Murry
13	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	2/27	Research Proposal Check-In	Both
	Monday	3:00-4:15	3/4	NO CLASS, Spring Vacation	
	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	3/6	NO CLASS, Spring Vacation	
14	Monday	3:00-4:15	3/11	Nonlinear Pricing	Grubb
15	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	3/13	Nonlinear Pricing	Grubb
16	Friday	3:00-4:15	3/15	MAKEUP CLASS, Learning	Grubb
17	Monday	3:00-4:15	3/18	Dana 1999	Grubb
18	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	3/20	Leslie 2004	Grubb
19	Monday	3:00-4:15	3/25	Search	Grubb
20	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	3/27	Search	Grubb
21	Monday	3:00-4:15	4/1	Switching Costs	Grubb
22	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	4/3	Switching Costs	Grubb
23	Monday	3:00-4:15	4/8	Insurance	Grubb
24	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	4/10	Insurance	Grubb
	Monday	3:00-4:15	4/15	NO CLASS, Patriots Day	
	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	4/17	CLASS CANCELLED	
	Monday	3:00-4:15	4/22	NO CLASS, Easter Monday	
25	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	4/24	Collusion	Grubb
26	Monday	3:00-4:15	4/29	Research Proposal Presentations	Both
27	Wednesday	12:00-1:15	5/1	Research Proposal Presentations	Both