

Class Syllabus
EC327 - INTRO TO GAME THEORY
CRN: 11733
Fall 2025
Date modified: May 15, 2025

Lecture time:	8:30-9:50 am	classroom:	McKenzie 240C
Instructor:	Dante Yasui	email:	dyasui@uoregon.edu
office:	PLC 525	office hours:	***TBA***
TA:	***		

Course Description

This course introduces the field of game theory, which involves the analysis of strategic situations; where the consequences one person's choice depend on the actions of others. The examples of settings we may discuss range from simple games like rock, paper, scissors; to more complicated games of incomplete information in the market for used cars.

We will introduce the general concept of equilibrium and explore the different forms of equilibria in different settings. Students will learn through in-person lectures and discussions, and build their own skills through participation in in-class activities.

This elective is suitable for economics majors and anyone interested in understanding the strategic dynamics that shape our decisions.

1 Course Policies

1.1 Course Pages:

- **Canvas:** The Canvas class page will be where you submit graded assignments and where you can check your current grade.
- **Course Website:** <https://dyasui.github.io/EC327/>

This website will be kept up to date with the current class schedule, activities, assignments, and slides.

1.2 Course Modality:

This is an in-person class that will meet at the times specified in the UO Class Schedule. The [attendance policy](#) below specifies the manner in which absences are managed. Please consult with the Accessible Education Center if you need accommodations related to a disability.

1.3 Prerequisites:

One of EC101 or EC201.

1.4 Objectives:

This course aims to help you to understand the fundamental principles of game theory, become familiar with basic classes of games, practice the mathematical skills to solve for the appropriate equilibria, apply game theoretic models to real-world interactions, and recognize limitations and critiques of the theory.

1.5 Textbook:

Games of Strategy by Avinash Dixit, Susan Skeath, and David McAdams, **5th edition**. E-book versions are available from the [publisher](#).

You will need a copy of the textbook to complete the assigned readings. There will also be some homework questions drawn from the book, so make sure you have an up-to-date copy.

1.5.1 Additional Sources:

If you want to see another introductory game theory textbook which has a slightly different focus, I would recommend: Joseph E. Harrington, *Games Strategies and Decision Making*, Worth Publishers, 2008.

Any other readings I assign (for example articles, news stories, etc.) will be posted on the course website.

1.6 Attendance:

Regular attendance is essential and expected. My expectation is that you have done at least some of the assigned reading before coming to class so that you are ready to ask questions and engage in discussion. You will demonstrate your attendance by participating in regular in-class [activities](#) and group discussions.

2 Grading Policies:

Activities	15%
Homework	25%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

2.1 Activities

Throughout the course on several days, you will be asked to break into groups and play a short game that relates to ideas we are learning. You will be asked to record what happens during the activity so that we can collect and analyze the class's data. Your Activities grade will be determined by your participation (i.e., were you present, respectful, and engaged) as well as a short report where you debrief the activity and relate it to class content.

If you are unable to attend class when we have an activity, you may make up for your lost participation by designing an alternative activity which you can complete on your own time in consultation with the instructor. Only up to 2 missed activities may be substituted for per quarter.

2.2 Homework

To help practice your understanding of the material, you will complete a written homework assignment covering the corresponding chapter (9-10). You will post your submissions as *a single pdf file* including all work. You will be graded according to the rubric posted on Canvas. Answer keys will be automatically posted on the due date in Canvas, so no late submissions will be accepted. However, your lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the term.

2.3 Quizzes

There will also be a number of quizzes posted on Canvas which are mostly designed to keep you up to date with the reading. There will be one quiz for each assigned chapter and they will be due the day before we are scheduled to begin the lecture on that new content. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped.

2.4 Exams:

Exams will be in-person and closed-note.

There will be one midterm exam around week 5 and one final exam administered at the time specified in the Registrars final exam schedule. Each exam will have a multiple-choice section (based on quiz questions) and some long-answer questions (based on homework). You are allowed to bring a 3x5 inch handwritten notecard (front and back sides).

If you cannot attend the midterm due to extreme circumstances, you may choose to move the weight that would have been applied to the midterm score to your final exam instead. To qualify for re-weighting, a request must be submitted to the instructor no later than two days after the midterm.

University Policies:¹

The UO Economics Department welcomes and respects diverse experiences, perspectives, and approaches. Both nationwide and at the University of Oregon, disproportionately few women and members of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups graduate with degrees in economics. All class participants are expected to communicate with respect and to avoid behaviors or contributions that undermine, demean, or marginalize others based on race, ethnicity, gender, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion, ability, or socioeconomic status.

I believe that everyone deserves an equal access to higher education. If you believe that you face specific barriers to your learning that make it more difficult to keep up with your peers, there are resources at UO to help you.

Accessible Education

The **Accessible Education Center (AEC)** provides services such as:

- Testing accommodations such as reduced-distraction environments and official requests for longer time to take exams if necessary.
- Other classroom accommodations like peer note-taking, accessible technology, etc.

If you have or think you have a [disability](#) or an obstacle to your learning, please contact the AEC to discuss appropriate accommodations or support:

- Visit 360 Oregon Hall or <https://aec.uoregon.edu/> for more information.
- Call AEC at 541-346-1155 or email to uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Mandatory Reporter Status:

I am an **assisting employee**. This means I only report any information shared to me to the administration if you request I do so.

- Details about reporting obligations as an employee: [Employee Reporting Obligations on the Office of Investigations and Civil Rights Compliance \(OICRC\) website](#).

If you are experiencing sex or gender-based discrimination, harassment or violence:

- Call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE [7244]
- or visit safe.uoregon.edu

If you are experiencing *any* form of prohibited discrimination or harassment:

- contact the Dean of Students Office at 541-346-3216
- or the non-confidential Title IX Coordinator/OICRC at 541-346-3123.

Additional resources are available at UOs [How to Get Support webpage](#).

¹Adapted from UO TEP's starter syllabus

Academic Integrity:

Please review the [University Student Conduct Code](#)

A (non-exhaustive) list of acts which can be considered **academic misconduct** in this class:

- Taking a quiz or exam for another person, or providing answers to a quiz or exam question to someone else.
- [Plagiarising](#), or someone else's work on a homework assignment without saying who it came from.

Your Wellbeing and Basic Needs:

Students often feel overwhelmed or stressed, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationships, or just need help navigating challenges in their life. If you're facing such challenges, you don't need to handle them on your own—there's help and support on campus. As your instructor if I believe you may need additional support, I will express my concerns, the reasons for them, and refer you to resources that might be helpful. It is not my intention to know the details of what might be bothering you, but simply to let you know I care and that help is available. Getting help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those you care about.

- **University Health Services:** (located in the EMU on the ground floor) Help students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. You can talk to a specially trained Peer Wellness Advocate about problems you are facing.
- **University Counseling Services (UCS):** Offers free and confidential clinical counseling services, wellbeing assessments, in-person, hybrid, or teletherapy options. Call 541-346-3227 if UCS is closed to access the After-Hours Support and Crisis Line.
- **UO Basic Needs:** They have information on food, housing, healthcare, childcare, transportation, technology, finances (including emergency funds), and legal support.
- If your need is **urgent**, contact the [Care and Advocacy Program](#) by calling **541-346-3216**, filling out the Community Care and Support form, or by scheduling an appointment with an advocate.

Accommodations for Religious Observances:

If you need to be absent from a class period this term because of a religious obligation or observance, please fill out the Student Religious Accommodation Request [fillable PDF form](#) and send it to me within the first weeks of the course so we can make arrangements in advance.

Acknowledge and Sign

I agree that I have read and understand the syllabus and that all work submitted will be my own or appropriately cited/attributed when I am asked to use the work of others ².

Sign Here

Date

²This includes the use of generative AI