Cron 40050
Game Theory
Professor Thomas A. Gresik

Office: 443 Flanner Hall
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm or by appointment
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Course Web Page
The course web page can be found at www.nd.edu/~tgresik/Econ40050/gametheory.htm. If you ever forget this link, you can always find it by starting from my home page: www.nd.edu/~tgresik. This page will include up-to-date schedule information and numerous course materials. I encourage students to check this page especially for schedule information. Note: This is not a WebCT page.

Course Description
Game theory is the formal study of strategic behavior. Strategic issues arise in any decision problem when each person's outcome is affected by the choices of others. Game theory has been used to understand behavior in both economic, political, and social situations. This course will introduce the basic concepts and analytic methods of game theory and develop a variety of important applications including competition in duopolies, international trade policy, contracting, auction design, and strategic voting.

Required Textbook

Course Objectives
The primary objectives of this course are to
1. Learn the basic terminology and solution concepts of game theory,
2. Demonstrate facility with the solution concepts by application to a variety of strategic problems, and
3. Learn how to use formal mathematical theories to study strategic problems.

Grades
Your semester grade will be based on class participation, homework, 2 midterms, and a final exam. Class participation will count for 10% of your semester grade, homework will count for 15%, and each exam will count for 25%. Except for class participation, curved scores and not raw scores are used to calculate semester grades.

Attendance Policy
You may miss up to 3 classes before your class participation grade is affected. Six or more absences will result in zero class participation credit. You will not incur a penalty for excused absences, but they will count towards the total number of classes missed until alternate assignments are completed. In addition, absences are discouraged because there will be assignments or activities in almost every class that will influence your semester grade. The primary source of information will be material presented in class. Reading the text material is a complement to class activities and not a substitute. Missing classes will put you at a serious disadvantage relative to your classmates.

Students who start to make a habit of arriving at class more than a few minutes late will be given a warning after which each late arrival will count as an absence. Late arrivals disrupt class and should be avoided. Please see me if you have a conflict that makes it difficult to arrive on time.
Excused absences. I follow University policies on absences. University-excused absences are limited to your own illness, death in the family, or for duties performed for the university. If an illness prevents you from attending class, you must provide a note from University Health Services or from your rector. If your illness is serious enough to miss class, it is serious enough to inform a responsible person. Please note that some clubs and some professors schedule trips or other activities outside of regular class time that may conflict with this course. These events are not considered an university duty and do not qualify for an excused absence.

If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, please contact me to make arrangements to complete the exam. If you miss any other type of assignment due to an excused absence, you will either have the opportunity to complete the assignment at another time or I will make an appropriate adjustment at the end of the semester to reflect your excused absence.

University duties. Most university duties are scheduled well in advance. You are responsible for making arrangements with me to make up work missed due to a university duty at least one week in advance.

Exam Information
Exams: Both midterms will be administered in class. The final exam will be cumulative. All three exams will test your knowledge and understanding of basic terms and concepts as well as your ability to apply the concepts to solve economic problems. Midterm dates will be posted on the course web page. The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 11 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Please notify me of any exam conflicts or special testing needs as soon as possible. Conflict or special requests made less than one week before an exam will, except for emergencies, be denied.

All exams are closed-note and closed-book. The only permissible materials you may bring to an exam are a pen or pencil, a ruler to help draw graphs, a hand-held, nonprogrammable, non-graphing calculator. Cell phones, laptops, PDAs or any other type of computing or communication equipment may not be used for any reason during an exam.

Missed or Late Assignments
All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates unless other instructions are given. No late assignments will be accepted without prior approval from me. If you come to class after an assignment has been collected, your assignment will be considered late.

Honor Code Rules
Exams. All exams and quizzes will be closed-note and closed-book. You may have a pen or pencil, a ruler, and a nonprogrammable, non-graphing, hand-held calculator at your desk while taking an exam. PDAs and cell phones or any other type of computing or communication equipment are prohibited. Any other forms of assistance or sources of information are prohibited. This includes the sharing of information about the exam with someone who may not yet have taken a test or eliciting information from students who have already taken a test.

Homework. You may discuss these assignments with other members of the class. However, you must write up your own assignment. Copying another student's assignment is not permitted.

Any violations of academic integrity will be handled in accordance the university's Academic Code of Honor.

Topic Syllabus
A detailed topic syllabus is available on the course web page.