



北京大學
汇丰商学院

Peking University HSBC Business School

ECON 513 Game Theory Module 3, 2017-2018

Course Information

Instructor:

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Office Hour: TBD

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Phone:

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Classes:

Lectures: Monday/Thursday 10:30am to 12:20pm

Venue: PHBS Building, Room 313

Course Website:

<http://cms.phbs.pku.edu.cn/claroline/course/index.php?cid=ECON513>

1. Course Description

1.1 Context

Course overview:

We cover main ideas and techniques of game theoretic analysis. The course introduces the basic intuition of game theory and its application. Furthermore, we will discuss several more advanced topics as well as the consequences of new development of behavioral assumptions in the second part of the course.

Prerequisites:

Basic knowledge of intermediate microeconomics is required.

It is also recommended that you have also taken Advanced Microeconomics 1 and undergraduate Game Theory course.

A basic background of mathematics and (social) psychology is helpful but not necessary.

1.2 Textbooks and Reading Materials

The course is divided into two parts.

In the first 5 to 6 weeks, we will cover basic analytical tools in strategic situations. During the remaining time, we will extend these analytical tools to behavioral game theory, which applies recently proposed behavioral assumptions to the framework. There is also an option to cover

different topics of game theory including Asymmetric Information and Signaling Game. We will discuss the possible options when necessary.

There is no assigned textbook for the class. Instead, I will handpick the topics, which I believe interesting, useful, and insightful. For each topic, there are directly related references. For beginners, I recommend buying at least one reference book. The language in which the book of your choice is written does not matter.

[1] Zhiyong Tu, *Game Theory*, Peking University Press, 2009.
 [2] Joel Watson, *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory*, Norton, 2008.
 [3] Jean-Jacques Laffont & David Martimort, *The Theory of Incentives: The Principal-Agent Model*, Princeton University Press, 2002.
 [4] Colin F. Camerer, *Behavioral Game Theory: Experiments in Strategic Interaction*, Princeton, 2003.
 [5] Nick Wilkinson, "An Introduction to Behavioral Economics", Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.
 [6] Colin F. Camerer, George Loewenstein, and Matthew Rabin, editors, *Advances in Behavioral Economics*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003.
 [7] John H. Kagel and Alvin E. Roth, *The Handbook of Experimental Economics*, Princeton, 1995
 [8] Andreu Mas-Colell, Michael Whinston, and Jerry Green, *Microeconomic Theory*, Oxford University Press, 1995.
 [9] Geoffrey A. Jehle and Phillip J. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, Prentice Hall, 2011.

For the first part, you may consult any game theory textbook (including [1] or [2]). I will consult [3] mostly on topics of asymmetric information. For the second part, [4] is a good textbook that concentrates on behavioral game theory topics. [5] is a good general introductory textbook that broadly covers various behavioral topics. [6] and [7] are collection of seminal papers in the field. You can also easily find chapters of game theory in most graduate microeconomic textbooks like [8] or [9].

2. Learning Outcomes

2.1 Intended Learning Outcomes

Learning Goals	Objectives	Assessment (YES with details or NO)
1. Our graduates will be effective communicators.	1.1. Our students will produce quality business and research-oriented documents.	No (There is a good chance that students can use the materials covered in this class in producing business or research-oriented documents. These features, however, will be not directly assessed in class.)
	1.2. Students are able to professionally present their ideas and also logically explain and defend their argument.	No
2. Our graduates will be skilled in team work and leadership.	2.1. Students will be able to lead and participate in group for projects, discussion, and presentation.	No
	2.2. Students will be able to apply leadership theories and related skills.	No
3. Our graduates will be trained in ethics.	3.1. In a case setting, students will use appropriate techniques to analyze business problems and	No

	identify the ethical aspects, provide a solution and defend it.	
	3.2. Our students will practice ethics in the duration of the program.	No
4. Our graduates will have a global perspective.	4.1. Students will have an international exposure.	No
5. Our graduates will be skilled in problem-solving and critical thinking.	5.1. Our students will have a good understanding of fundamental theories in their fields.	Yes (The course covers fundamental theories of Game Theory and the students will become familiar with them after taking the course.)
	5.2. Our students will be prepared to face problems in various business settings and find solutions.	Yes (Game Theory can be applied to many practical problems in strategic and competitive situations, which they will commonly encounter in business settings.)
	5.3. Our students will demonstrate competency in critical thinking.	Yes (Game Theory requires higher level of understanding of own and opponents' strategies and payoffs, which is a great tool and practice for critical thinking.)

2.2 Course specific objectives

The main objectives of the course are to provide students with a foundation to game theory that helps strategic and critical thinking and to let them apply its intuition to solve real world problems.

2.3 Assessment/Grading Details

Your grade will depend on two exams and other miscellaneous evaluation:

- 1) Midterm Exam (35%) – 10:30am to 12:20pm, Thursday, March 29 (tentative)
- 2) Final Exam (50%) – 9:00am to 11:00am, Monday, April 30,
- 3) Attendance and class participation (15%)

The exact time of the midterm exam will be announced later.

The final exam is cumulative and covers all materials discussed in the course.

The weight of each exam is determined and not negotiable.

There is no make up exam.

Attendance will be marked periodically.

Each absence without approval is worth 1% deduction of your final score.

Class participation will also be evaluated by several in-class experiments.

I will give you several problem sets that are not going to be graded.

Game theory can be complicated and abstract. You will not understand the material by just coming to class. Game theory can only be learned well through practice, so it is important that you work through the examples and spend time solving problems.

The purpose of the problem sets is to help you check your understanding of the materials. It will also be handy in preparing for the exams because some of the exam questions will be similar (or even identical) with those in the problem sets.

You will also get the answer keys to check your understanding.

2.4 Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

It is important for a student's effort and credit to be recognized through class assessment. Credits earned for a student work due to efforts done by others are clearly unfair. Deliberate dishonesty is considered academic misconducts, which include plagiarism; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; or altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying of data, research procedures, or data analysis.

All assessments are subject to academic misconduct check. Misconduct check may include reproducing the assessment, providing a copy to another member of faculty, and/or communicate a copy of this assignment to the PHBS Discipline Committee. A suspected plagiarized document/assignment submitted to a plagiarism checking service may be kept in its database for future reference purpose.

Where violation is suspected, penalties will be implemented. The penalties for academic misconduct may include: deduction of honour points, a mark of zero on the assessment, a fail grade for the whole course, and reference of the matter to the Peking University Registrar.

For more information of plagiarism, please refer to *PHBS Student Handbook*.

3. Topics, Teaching and Assessment Schedule

The schedule is tentative and due to changes.

The chapters and reading materials are provided for your reference.

Week 1 Introduction and basic concepts of Game Theory

[2] Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

[8] Chapter 7

Week 2 Analysis of Static Games

[2] Chapter 6, 7, 9, 11

[8] Chapter 8 Section A-D

Week 3-4 Analysis of Dynamic Games and Equilibrium Refinement

[2] Chapter 14, 15, 18, 19, 22

[8] Chapter 9

Week 4-5 Games with Incomplete Information

[2] Chapter 24, 28

[8] Chapter 8 Section E

Week 6-8 Asymmetric Information and Signaling Game (optional)

[2] Chapter 25, 27, 29

[3] Chapter 2-4

[8] Chapter 13, 14

Week 6 Introduction to Behavioral Game Theory (optional)

[4] Chapter 1, "Introduction"; Appendix 1.1, "Basic Game Theory"; and Appendix 1.2, "Experimental Design"

[6] Chapter 13, Colin F. Camerer, "Behavioral Game Theory: Predicting Human Behavior in Strategic Situations"

- Richard H. Thaler, "From Homo Economicus to Homo Sapiens", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2000, vol. 14.

- Matthew Rabin, "Psychology and Economics," Section 2, *Journal of Economic Literature*, March 1998.

- Stefano DellaVigna, "Psychology and Economics: Evidence from the Field," Section 2.3 *Journal of Economic Literature*, June 2009.

Week 6-7 Survey of experiments in Game Theory (optional)

[4] Chapter 2, Dictator, Ultimatum and Trust game

- James Andreoni, Marco Castillo and Ragan Petrie, "What do Bargainers' Preferences Look Like? Exploring a Convex Ultimatum Game." *American Economic Review*, 93(3), June 2003, 672-685.

Week 8 Social Preference (optional)

[6] Chapter 9, Ernst Fehr and Klaus M. Schmidt, "A Theory of Fairness, Competition, and Cooperation"

[6] Chapter 10 Matthew Rabin, "Incorporating Fairness into Game Theory and Economics"

- Joel Sobel, "Interdependent Preferences and Reciprocity" *Journal of Economic Literature*, June 2005

- Ernst Fehr and Klaus M. Schmidt, "The Economics of Fairness, Reciprocity and Altruism – Experimental Evidence and New Theories," in *Handbook of the Economics of Giving, Altruism and Reciprocity*, Edited by S. Kolm and J.M. Ythier. July 2006, North Holland

Week 9 Initial Responses to Games (optional)

[6] Chapter 12, Vincent P. Crawford, "Theory and Experiment in the Analysis of Strategic Interaction"

[4] Section 4.1, Unstructured Bargaining; 4.2, Structured Bargaining; Chapter 5, Dominance-Solvable Games; and Chapter 7, Coordination

- Rosemarie Nagel, "Unraveling in Guessing Games: An Experimental Study," *American Economic Review* 85 (1995), 1313-1326

- Miguel Costa-Gomes and Vincent Crawford, "Cognition and Behavior in Two-Person Guessing Games: An Experimental Study," *American Economic Review* 96 (December 2006), 1737-1768

- Camerer, Colin, Ho, Teck-Hua and Chong, Juin Kuan, "A Cognitive Hierarchy Model of Games," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119 (2004), 861-898;

- Vincent Crawford and Nagore Iriberry, "Fatal Attraction: Focality, Naivete, and Sophistication in Experimental Hide-and-Seek Games," *American Economic Review*, 97 (2007),

- Alvin Roth, Vesna Prasnikar, Masahiro Okuno-Fujiwara, and Shmuel Zamir, "Bargaining and Market Behavior in Jerusalem, Ljubljana, Pittsburgh, and Tokyo: An Experimental Study," *American Economic Review* 81 (1991), 1068-1095.

- Judith Mehta, Chris Starmer, and Robert Sugden, "The Nature of Salience: An Experimental Investigation of Pure Coordination Games," *American Economic Review* 84 (1994), 658- 674.

- Vincent Crawford, Uri Gneezy, and Yuval Rottenstreich, "The Power of Focal Points is Limited: Even Minute Payoff Asymmetry May Yield Large Coordination Failures," *American Economic Review*, 98 (2008)

- Vincent Crawford "Adaptive Dynamics in Coordination Games," *Econometrica* 63 (January 1995), 103-143: Section 2, pp. 106-109

4. Miscellaneous