



Brown University

**Economics 1870 – Game Theory and Applications to Economics**

Spring 2012

**Professor:** Geoffroy de Clippel ([declippel@brown.edu](mailto:declippel@brown.edu))

Class meets MWF 2-2:50pm (Smith-Buonanno 106)

Office hours: F 11am-noon (Robinson hall, room 102A)

I am also available to arrange individual appointments to further explain the material.

**Teaching Assistant:** Takeshi Suzuki ([Takeshi\\_Suzuki@brown.edu](mailto:Takeshi_Suzuki@brown.edu))

Students may choose to attend *either* section C01 that meets Th 7-7:50pm (Wilson 109), *or* section C02 that meets 12-12:50pm (Wilson 109). Starts on February 2.

Office hours: M noon-1pm (basement of Robinson hall)

Takeshi is also available to arrange individual appointments to further explain the exercises.

**Overview:** This course introduces the basic tools of game theory, a branch of economic theory that studies *interactive decision making*.

**Prerequisites:** Econ 111 or 113, and a statistics course (Econ 162 or 163, or Math 161, or Applied Math 165). Your willingness to work hard is essential for a good understanding of the subject.

**Textbook:** *Game theory for applied economists* by Robert Gibbons, Princeton University Press

Additional optional reference: *An Introduction to Game Theory* by Martin J. Osborne, Oxford University Press.

**Course webpage:** [http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Geoffroy\\_declippel/1870](http://www.econ.brown.edu/fac/Geoffroy_declippel/1870) will contain among other things a copy of the slides used in class, homework assignments and their answer keys, exams and their answer keys, and a summary list of the topics covered together with references for optional readings.

The *mycourse* webpage will be used primarily for disclosing grades and for discussions. Feel free to post messages there – they will be answered in a timely manner by the TA and myself, and hopefully will promote discussion among students as well.

**Grading:** Your numerical grade in the course will be determined as a weighted average of your scores on the weekly assignments, the midterm, and the final exam. The weights are:

Weekly assignments	30%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%

I will take into account the absolute value of this numerical grade, as well as its relative position in the overall distribution, to decide on the final letter grade for the course. There will be roughly 50% of As.

**Weekly assignments:** Please place your solution set in the designated box in the basement of Robinson hall, or hand it in at the end of the Wednesday class. The schedule of assignments goes as follows:

Assignment	Available on Wed	Due Wed (4pm)	Graded & Answer Keys Posted on
A1	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 13
A2	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 20
A3	Feb 15	Feb 22	Feb 24
A4	Feb 29	March 7	March 12
A5	March 7	March 14	March 19
A6	March 14	April 4	April 9
A7	April 4	April 11	April 16
A8	April 11	April 18	April 23
(A9)	(April 18)	(April 25)	(April 27)

Problem set grades, which will be on a 0-100 scale, will be determined by the TA. Graded assignments will be available in a box in the basement of Robinson hall. Answer keys will be available on the website.

Any question regarding the grading of a problem set **must be submitted to the TA within two weeks of it being returned**. Re-grade requests must be submitted in writing, with a note explaining the reason why the question should be re-graded.

Students may not submit joint problem sets. Although students are free to discuss the problem sets with each other, they are expected to solve these independently in order to best prepare for the exams, which will be similar to the problem sets.

On rare occasions, justified delays can be accommodated. This will be decided by the TA on a case by case basis. Otherwise, missing a deadline means a zero score.

**Midterm exam:** The midterm exam will take place on Wednesday March 21, in place of the regular class. No alternative date will be arranged. Students will not be allowed to consult any material during the exam.

**Final exam:** The final exam will cover the *entire* material, and will last at most two hours and a half. Please be aware that the course falls in the examination group number 7, and hence the final exam will be held on May 17 at 2pm. No alternative date will be arranged. Students will not be allowed to consult any material during the exam.

Takeshi will grade the midterm, as well as the final, under my supervision. The average grade for the class will be indicated in the answer keys that will be posted online after each exam. Individual grades will be available via mycourses, and graded copies will be available in the class box in the basement of Robinson Hall. Students then have at most *two weeks* to introduce a complaint regarding a grade after exams have been graded. Takeshi deals with complaints, and will refer to me if needed. Requests must be placed in his mailbox situated in the basement of Robinson hall. They must be specific and motivated. This means that you must include a copy of the question(s) that need(s) to be re-graded, a copy of the answer(s), and an explanation as to why the question(s) need(s) to be re-graded.