

Syllabus for ECON 482 – Distributive Justice

G. de Clippel

Rice University - Fall 2006

1. General Information

Professor: Geoffroy de Clippel (clippel@rice.edu)

Class meets MWF 3:00-3:50 @ BB 102

Office Hours: MWF 4-5pm @ BB 266B

Teaching Assistant: Jung Sook You (jsyou@rice.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5pm in BB 237 (cubicle 5)

Website: http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~clippel/index_files/page0004.htm

2. Description

The subject of the class is the fair division of common property. Different societies consider different sharing rules as just, fair, or equitable, in the sense of appropriate to the need, status and contributions of its various members. We will not discuss the ethical or moral validity of these principles. Instead, the objective is to formalize a few such general principles and to systematically analyze their implications in mathematical models representing real-world situations.

3. Prerequisites

- ECON 211
- ECON 370
- MATH 101 (or MATH 111 and MATH 112)

4. Textbooks

H. J. Moulin, 'Fair Division and Collective Welfare', MIT Press.

5. Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be posted every other Friday on the website, starting on September 8. The solutions are due the following Friday by 4pm. No derogation will be accepted. Homework assignments must be solved individually. The solutions must be dropped in the teaching assistant's mailbox located in BB 277. The solutions will be graded by the teaching assistant and corrected copies will be available the following Friday (hence two weeks after the problem set was posted on the website) in the class mailbox located on the second floor of the Baker Institute (in the corner on the right after passing the door from the stairway). A sketch of the solutions will also be posted on the website on that same day. The answer to the exercises must be concise and the handwriting must be legible. The average of the scores obtained for the homework assignments will account for 30% of the final numerical score. A missing solution set is converted to a zero in the computation of this average. The teaching assistant will be available during her office hours to answer questions about previous homework assignments and the material covered in class. She will never help to solve specific questions of an upcoming homework assignment. The teaching assistant is also ready to organize some additional review sessions regarding the homework assignments, if requested by some students.

6. Fifty-Minute Exams

Two fifty-minute exams will take place on Wednesday Oct 18, and Monday Dec 4, between 3:00 and 3:50 in BB 102, in replacement of the regular class. The average of the scores

obtained for the two fifty-minute exams will account for 30% of the final numerical score. A missing exam is converted to a zero in the computation of this average. Since the dates of the exams are communicated a long time in advance, individual requests to modify the date of an exam will be accepted only for very exceptional reasons. The fifty-minute exams will be closed-book. The questions could be conceptual or consist in solving exercises. They will cover the material of the classes taught since the last fifty-minute exam.

7. Final Exam

The final exam will be a two-hour written exam. You may consult Moulin's book during the exam, but no other reference. It will account for 40% of the final numerical score. The exam will consist mostly in solving exercises. These exercises will be directly related to the material covered in class and will be similar to those solved in the homework assignments.

8. Grading

The final numerical score will be the weighted average of the scores obtained for the homework assignments, the three fifty-minute exams and the final exam. The weights are defined as follows:

- 30% for homework assignments
- 30% for two fifty-minute exams (15% each)
- 40% for the final exam

The following table will be used to convert the final numerical score on the course to letter grades.

Score > 90%	A+
Score ≤ 90% and > 85%	A
Score ≤ 85% and > 80%	A-
Score ≤ 80% and > 75%	B+
Score ≤ 75% and > 70%	B
Score ≤ 70% and > 66%	B-
Score ≤ 66% and > 63%	C+
Score ≤ 63% and > 60%	C
Score ≤ 60% and > 55%	C-
Score ≤ 55% and ≥ 50%	D
Score < 50%	F

9. Review Sessions

The teaching assistant will organize a review session on Friday Oct 13, and Friday Dec 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in preparation of the upcoming fifty-minute exam. Students are encouraged to participate to these two sessions and to prepare specific questions. The students may also ask questions to the teaching assistant during her office hours.

10. Disability-Related Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.