Instructor: Corinne Langinier, Heady Hall 383, phone: 294-5830, e-mail: langinie@iastate.edu

Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:40-2:00, Curtiss 306

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:10-3:10 PM and by appointment


Main Textbook:


Complementary Textbooks:


Complementary Readings:


2. *Handbook of Industrial Organization*
   

3. *The Economist*.

Web links:

• IO Resources: http://netec.mcc.ac.uk/WebEc/webec1.html


Grading: There will be 5 assignments, a term paper, two midterm exams and a final. They will count toward the grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments and Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterms</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Course Overview and Policies:

This course will cover traditional topics in Industrial Organization, such as monopoly and oligopoly theory, price discrimination, product differentiation, research and development, network. This course is divided into two parts: the exercise of monopoly power and the strategic interaction when firms are in competition. We will first study in detail the monopolistic behavior before introducing the strategic behavior. In order to fully understand the strategic behavior, a good knowledge of game theoretic models is very important. We will also study the effects of information being asymmetrically distributed among economic agents.

There will be two midterm exams and one final. There will be no make-up exams. If students miss the midterm exam and have a well-documented, university-approved excuse (such as a severe illness), the grade weights for the final exam will be scaled up appropriately. All students must take the final exam to be assigned a grade.

The homework assignments will be due the week after. They will not be accepted late for any reason. Every homework assignment will be included in the final grade calculation as well as the term paper. This required paper can be a model that you develop or a survey of papers in IO literature. I will distribute guidelines and a list of suggested topics. You may pick your own topic, subject to approval. I require an intermediate Paper Memo at the end of the 7th week of term, which should include a clear statement of the economic issues you will discuss, and any other legal or policy issues, and a comprehensive bibliography. The final paper is due at the end of the 16th week of term.
Schedules and Topics:

Week 1  **Introduction**: What is a firm?. The theory of the firm.

- Complementary Readings on **Contract and Organization of the firm**
  


**Part I: The Exercise of Monopoly Power**

Week 2  **Chapter 1**: Monopoly.

  *Homework Assignment #1 (Introduction and Chapter 1) due on Thursday January 27.*

Week 3  **Chapter 2**: Product Selection, Quality and Advertising.

Week 4  **Chapter 3**: Price Discrimination.

  *Assignment #2 (Chapters 2 and 3): Read and present a paper (or part of it) on week 5.*

Week 5  **Chapter 3 (Continued)**. Presentation of papers.

  - Complementary readings:
    

Week 6  **Mid-Term: Chapters 1 to 3.**

Week 7  **Chapter 11**: Introduction to non cooperative Game Theory.

  *Intermediate Paper Memo.*

  *Assignment #3 (Chapters 11 and 5) due on Thursday March 3.*

**Part II: Strategic Interaction**

Week 8  **Chapter 5**: Short-run Competition.

Week 9  **Chapter 7**: Product Differentiation: Price Competition and Non-Price Competition.

  *Assignment #4 (Chapter 7). Read and present a paper on week 11.*

Week 10  **SPRING BREAK**

Week 11  **Chapter 7 (continued)**. Presentation of papers.
• Complementary readings:


**Week 12** Second Mid Term. Chapters 5, 7 and 11.

**Week 13** Chapter 8: Entry, Accommodation and Exit.

**Week 14** Chapter 9: Information and Strategic Behavior: Reputation.

**Week 15** Chapter 10: Research and Development and the Adoption of New Technologies.

*Homework Assignment #5 (Chapters 8 and 9). Papers on IPR and Patents.

**Week 16** Intellectual Property Rights and Patents

• Readings on Optimal scope of Patents


• Readings on the pace of R&D, patent race


• Readings on Patents and R&D and Network


*Final Paper due the last week of course.*

**Week 17** Final Examination.