Economics 641  
Advanced Topics in Cooperatives  
FALL 2007 (1ST PART)

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Time and Location:  Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:20 pm in Heady Hall 274. 
Office Hours:  By appointment 

Course description:  In this course, we will cover some theoretical aspects of cooperatives. We will adopt a broad definition of cooperatives that will also include partnerships. We will also try to review some recent paper on social networks. 

Books:  

Grading and Policies:  There will be a little project and two presentations of papers in the area of cooperatives. These presentations will be long enough to allow each student to describe the technical aspects of the presented paper. 

Course Overview:  

Cooperatives are a special type of organization (usually corporate) owned and controlled by their member-patrons (i.e., customers) and operated for them on a nonprofit or cost basis. Cooperatives are rare but they are present in many areas of the economic activity. Obviously, agriculture is probably the sector where cooperatives are the most prevalent with about a third of agricultural commodities being marketed by cooperatives. 

In this course, we will cover some theoretical aspects of cooperatives. We will adopt a broad definition of cooperatives that will also include partnerships. Our objectives is to address several questions related to cooperatives such as 

- Why are they so rare? 
- Why are they so diverse? 
- In what economic contexts are they more likely to appear?
Finally, because cooperatives represent social networks of people. We will try to connect cooperatives with recent contributions in the areas of social networks.
Tentative Class schedules and Topics (may be subject to changes):

**Week 1:** Traditional agricultural Cooperative Theory.

**Week 2:** Traditional agricultural Cooperative Theory.

**Week 3:** Formation and Decision-making.

**Week 4:** Formation and Decision-making

**Week 5:** Financing and Social Capital

**Week 6:** Presentations of papers by students

**Week 7:** Presentations of papers by students

**Week 8:** Presentation of projects by students