

Syllabus for ECON 19 Games of Strategy

Fall 2015, Department of Economics UCLA

Time and Location: Thursday, 9:00am – 10:45am, September 24th – October 22nd, Bunche 2156

Instructor: Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn, mtv@econ.ucla.edu, <http://www.econ.ucla.edu/mtv>

Overview: This course gives an introduction to game theory, the analysis of strategic interaction. We engage in such interaction all the time: For example, as you ponder whether to sign up for this course, you may be tempted to first discuss with your friends to coordinate on courses, or to hear whether the professor is any good. But as you wait the class may fill up, depending on other students' choices. If you believe that they are signing up quickly, then so should you.

Such interaction is at the heart of game theory. In this class we will study games from everyday life, real or fictional, as well as grander applications, such as high tech companies entering the entertainment market, or John F Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev engaging in brinkmanship in the Cuban missile crisis.

Readings: “[Games of Strategy](#)” (Dixit, Skeath, Reiley), “[Co-Opetition](#)” (Brandenburger, Nalebuff)

Requirements: This seminar will meet on the first five Thursdays of the fall quarter. Attendance at all meetings is mandatory. Grading is P/NP based on class participation. There will be assigned readings for every session after the first.

This introduction to game theory is non-technical but highly analytical. While no specific math skills are required, a mathematical mindset will prove useful.