ECONOMICS 611               Spring, 2015

MICROECONOMICS I
Tues, Thurs., 9:30 - 10:50         Eggers 112

Prerequisite: ECN 601 (PhD)

Mr. Kelly  312 Maxwell Hall  443-2345  jskelly@maxwell.syr.edu
Office Hours: Tues., Thurs., 11:00-12:30
The web version of this syllabus, including links, is at:
http://classes.maxwell.syr.edu/ecn611/syllabus.htm

Text:  Mas-Colell, Andreu; Michael D. Whinston; Jerry R. Green; Microeconomic Theory (Oxford University Press, 1995) plus further readings

- Course grades will be based on three equally weighted non-cumulative exams given after each section. There are no make-up assignments and no extra credit assignments will be given. There will be homework problems that will be marked but not graded.

- The homework problems can be cooperative - I would even encourage this if it is done correctly - but you must be careful, honest, and explicit about collaboration. Anyone whose name appears on collaborative work is responsible for all of it - whether or not they did that piece.

- The exams are NOT COLLABORATIVE. They will consist of both an in-class portion and a take-home portion. Everyone is expected to do their own work. You must bring your completed take-home portion to class (I urge you to make a copy). Under no circumstances are you to give your exam to someone else to turn in for you. Reasonable suspicion of a failure to comply with these rules results in a grade of 0 for the assignment. All Syracuse University policies and procedures concerning academic honesty apply to this course.

The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu
Because the material is so cumulative, it is important not to fall behind. Do not fail to ask questions if there is something you do not understand.

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 304 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, Office of Disability Services.

Content: The subject of the course is the game theoretic and other tools for microeconomics with special emphasis on issues of information. We examine static and dynamic games, each with both symmetric and asymmetric information. Applications will cover auctions, contracts, signaling, insurance, matching, and incentives.

ASSIGNMENTS

I. Game Theory

Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, Chaps. 7, 8, and 9

No class Jan. 31st

First exam approximately Feb 12 - Feb. 17

II. Asymmetric Information: Adverse Selection

Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green, Chap. 13.

Second exam approximately March 26 - 31
III. Asymmetric Information: Moral Hazard

Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green, Chap. 14.
Stiglitz, Joseph E., “Information and the Change in Paradigm in Economics,”
Macho-Stadler, Inés and David Pérez-Castrillo, Chap. 3.

IV. Social Choice and Mechanism Design

Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green, Chaps. 21-23.


V. Further Topics

Time permitting, we may take up evolutionary game theory, matching games, parametric continuity and parametric monotonicity, supermodularity, contract theory or other topics.

*Third Exam  April 28 - May 1*