



Department of Decision and Information Technologies

BMGT 808D FALL 2004 Doctoral Seminar in Information Systems Economics

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Class Meets: VMH 4354; M 1:00 - 3:40 PM

Office Hours: By appointment.

OBJECTIVES

This is a research-oriented doctoral seminar on IS Economics. Its primary objective is to familiarize seminar participants with the applications of microeconomic theories and modeling techniques to IS research problems. The seminar is also intended to motivate participants to explore the use of mathematical models to analyze a research question in their domain of interest. Students are expected to have adequate familiarity with calculus and simple optimization techniques.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The seminar will use the plus-minus grade system. Cutoffs will be determined based on overall class performance.

1. Research Paper and Presentation	75%
a. Research Questions and Literature Review	20%
b. Theoretical Model and Findings	20%
c. Final Presentation	15%
d. Final Research Report	20%
2. Participation in Discussions	10%
3. Critiques and Other Deliverables	15%

*There are no options for extra credit work outside the course grading system.

READINGS - CRITIQUES

Each participant will prepare a one-page critique of the papers assigned. The critique should highlight the most important, and interesting insights obtained from the article. A critical review of both the mathematical and substantive assumptions made, as well as their implications for the findings should also be included. We will use these to drive the discussion of each reading. The critiques/reviews of the articles assigned will be due (before class) on the dates mentioned in the schedule. Late submissions will not be accepted.

CLASS DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP

A key aspect of preparing for an academic career is the ability to lead and direct an academic discussion. Participants will be assigned papers for each session and will be required to lead the discussion in class. You will get at least one week's notice for the paper(s) you are assigned to lead.

TEXTBOOKS

1. MicroEconomic Theory: Basic Principles and Extensions.
Eighth Edition by Walter Nicholson
Publisher : South-Western College (Thomson Learning).
ISBN # 0-03-033593-0

2. Game Theory for Applied Economists
Robert Gibbons
Publisher: Princeton University Press
ISBN # 0-691-00395-5

3. The Theory of Industrial Organization
Jean Tirole
The MIT Press
ISBN # 0-262-20071-6

It is strongly recommended that students have access to 1 & 2.

In addition to selected chapters from these textbooks, there is a set of journal articles. You are responsible for obtaining copies of these articles.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

You will be required to identify an interesting research question. Your research paper should not exceed 20 pages (including references). All mathematical derivations and proofs should be provided in a separate technical appendix. Your final research paper is due by December 6th, 2004.

Your research paper should adhere to the following format.

1. INTRODUCTION & MOTIVATION
2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS
3. PRIOR RESEARCH (CONTEXT AND METHODOLOGY)
4. BASIC FRAMEWORK OF THE MODEL & ASSUMPTIONS
5. THE MODEL AND EXTENSIONS
6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
7. LIMITATIONS
8. FUTURE RESEARCH AND CONCLUSION
9. REFERENCES.
10. APPENDIX

Your research topic/question should be aligned with the objectives of the course (applying economic theories to study problems of interest to the IS community). Please bear in mind that not all phenomena lend themselves well to mathematical modeling. So be judicious in your choice of research topics and questions. The objective of this exercise is to produce a research paper of publishable quality.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"The University's *Code of Academic Integrity* is designed to ensure that the principles of academic honesty and integrity are upheld. All students are expected to adhere to this Code. The Smith School does not tolerate academic dishonesty. All acts of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of this code. Please visit the following website for more information on the University's Code of Academic Integrity:

http://www.inform.umd.edu/CampusInfo/Departments/JPO/AcInteg/code_acinteg2a.html

On each exam or assignment you will be asked to write out and sign the following pledge. "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

SPECIAL NEEDS: "Any student with special needs should bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible, but not later than the second week of class."