

ECON 485 A

Summer 2024

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| Instructor: Shabab Ahmed | Time: Asynchronous |
| Email: sahmed95@uw.edu | Place: Zoom |

Course Pages:

1. Canvas: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1729309>

The Canvas page will contain all the important information regarding the course such as announcements, assignments, files and deadlines. Please check the Canvas page regularly to keep up to date with the course.

Office Hours: Zoom link: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/94002269636>

1. **Monday, Wednesday 11 am -12 pm.** You are encouraged to use the office hours sign up sheet on on Canvas.
2. Or, by appointment. My office hours will be on Zoom unless you specifically want to meet me in person.

Questions: Answers to most questions regarding course procedures and policies can be found in the course syllabus. Office hour is the best place to ask conceptual questions about course material as I will not answer questions about the material via e-mail.

E-mail or send me a message in Canvas for personal inquiries.

References:

- **Required:** *Game Theory for Applied Economists*, by Robert Gibbons, Princeton University Press.
- Recommended: *The Art of Strategy: A Game Theorist's Guide to Success in Business and Life*, by Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, Norton. (see also *Thinking Strategically*, by Avinash Dixit and Barry Nalebuff, Norton)
- Other textbooks:
 - *Game theory: An Introduction*, by Steve Tadelis, Princeton University Press. An alternative to Gibbons.
 - *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory*, Third Edition, by Joel Watson, Norton. An alternative to Gibbons.
 - *Games, Strategies, and Decision Making*, Joseph E. Harrington, Jr., Worth Publishing. Examples from industrial organization.
 - *Playing for Real: A Text on Game Theory*, by Ken Binmore, Oxford University Press.

Topics and Goals:

We will follow the book by Gibbons very closely. Parts 1 and 2 on Static and Dynamic Games of Complete Information will be done quite thoroughly. We will introduce Games of Incomplete Information by picking

topics from Parts 3 and 4.

I strongly urge everyone to read at least one of the books by Dixit and Nalebuff. They complement the textbook by Gibbons very well, are very well written, and can be read without any preparation in game theory. They provide many wonderful examples and will be helpful in learning to think ‘game theoretically’.

Students are expected to be comfortable with elementary partial derivatives and solving systems of equations. As learning goals, by the end of the course, students should be able to:

- build games to think about common economic situations
- understand standard economic models based on simple game theory
- apply standard solution concepts to static games, dynamic games, repeated games, and games of incomplete information

Lecture Recordings: The class is asynchronous and so the lectures will be provided via recordings. I will post the lecture recordings (equivalent to two lectures per week for most weeks) every week on Monday. The lecture recordings can be found under the **Zoom** tab on Canvas and then clicking to **Cloud Recordings**. I will also post a link to the recordings under the corresponding module.

Assignments:

- **Problem Sets (5%):** Problem sets will be handed out weekly. The problem sets will be graded on completion and not correctness. You will receive full credit for attempting all the problems on the problem set (regardless of correctness) and zero otherwise. The answer keys will be posted on Canvas after the problem set due date. You are strongly encouraged to complete the problem sets to check if you are making adequate progress.
- **Quizzes (60 %):** There will be three quizzes in total:
 - Quiz 1 (20 %): **Tues, July 02 3:30 - 4:30 PM**
 - Quiz 2 (20 %): **Thurs, July 18 3:30 - 4:50 PM**
 - Quiz 2 (20 %): **Thurs, Aug 1 3:30 - 4:50PM**

The quizzes will be cumulative. Your ‘lowest’ quiz grade will be dropped in favor of your ‘highest’ quiz grade. Essentially, I will replace one quiz grade for another that has the best impact on your final grade taking into account class performance. There is no other makeup policy for these quizzes. In other words, if you are sick, traveling, or simply forget, you will not be given a makeup quiz. Instead you will be expected to use your dropped score.

- **Final Exam (35 %):** The final exam will be held on **Thurs, Aug 15 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**. The final exam will be cumulative.

Attendance Policy: This is a fully asynchronous course. All the lectures will be recorded, you should try to maintain a weekly schedule in watching the lectures so that you do not fall behind. The quizzes and final exam will be held over Zoom. You are required to attend the quizzes and exam on Zoom with the video turned on. More specific instructions about the quizzes and exam can be found on the course Canvas page.

Accommodations: Students who have established services with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) should contact me about their accommodations as soon as possible. Students with disabilities who have

not yet established services with DRS should contact them at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/> or 206-543-8924 to set up an access plan.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>. Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request Form at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Academic Misconduct: All students are expected to know and to abide by the University's Academic Misconduct policies as defined at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/SPCH209.html#7> summarized at <https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>. In particular, while you are encouraged to study with each other, all assignments for this course must be completed on one's own. Exams are open book but the submission must be one's own work. Failure to abide by these policies is likely to result in failing this course, and may result in further sanctions as described by the policy. Should I believe that you cheated or plagiarized on an assignment, you will receive a "zero" grade on that assignment.