Princeton University – Department of Economics
ECO 317 – ECONOMICS OF UNCERTAINTY
Spring Term 2013

SYLLABUS

Time and Place

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 11am – 12:20pm, Fisher Hall B03
Precept: Monday 7:30pm – 8:20pm, Fisher Hall B03

People

Professor: Stephen Morris
Office location: Fisher Hall 211
Office hours: Sign up in the Web Appointment Scheduling System
Before Spring Break: Mondays 10-12
After Spring Break: Tuesdays 9-10:40
Or by appointment
E-mail: smorris@princeton.edu

Assistant: Ellen Graf
E-mail: egraf@princeton.edu

Preceptor: Constantinos Kalfarentzos
Office hour location: Fisher Hall B10
Office hours: to be announced
E-mail: kkalfare@princeton.edu

Course Description

Texts

Timothy van Zandt, *Introduction to the Economics of Uncertainty and Information*, draft book in preparation for Oxford University Press, available on Blackboard for your personal use, please do not circulate. [Comments / corrections / typos would be useful to the author (who taught this course in the early 1990s). You can send them to me or him (http://faculty.insead.edu/vanzandt)]


Important precaution

Information about problem sets, exams, and posting of supplementary notes for lectures and precepts will be sent by e-mail, under the subject heading ECO317. You must make sure to check this frequently, and keep your e-mail account under quota.

Prerequisites

ECO 300 or 310 is a strictly enforced prerequisite. The class is most suitable for students who enjoy microeconomic theory and thinking analytically, so ECO 317 is most suitable for those who enjoyed and did well on ECO 310.

Knowledge of probability theory at least at the level of ECO 202. Having done ORF 245 instead will be a slight advantage. ORF 309 will be a huge advantage.
**Bottom-line issues**

*Problem Sets*

There will be seven problem sets. Each will be posted on the course web site at least a week ahead of its due date. Each will be due on a Tuesday by the end of class. We will not accept late problem sets for any reason. However, only the best five will count toward the grade, so you can miss two without cost.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem Set</th>
<th>Available By</th>
<th>Due in Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feb 19</td>
<td>Feb 26</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Mar 5</td>
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<td>Apr 16</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Apr 16</td>
<td>Apr 23</td>
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*Exams*

There will be an 80-minute midterm exam in class on Thursday March 14, and a 3-hour final exam scheduled by the registrar’s office during the exam period in May. You must give higher priority to exams over other activities including travel home or to exotic locations.

*Grading*

The problem sets will count for 20% of the course grade, the midterm for 30% and the final for 50%.