Subject: Economics and Decision Making Number: EBGN515

Course Title: Economics and Decision Making

Section: A

Semester/year: Spring 2017

Instructor or Coordinator: Edward J. Balistreri

Contact information (Office/Phone/Email): ebalistr@mines.edu

Office hours: 9-10am TR and 1:30-2:30pm TR

Class meeting days/times: 3:30pm-4:45pm TR

Class meeting location: Marquez Hall 235

Web Page/Blackboard link (if applicable): http://inside.mines.edu/~ebalistr/

Teaching Assistant (if applicable): NA

Contact information (Office/Phone/Email):

Instructional activity: _3_ hours lecture _0_ hours lab _3_ semester hours

Course designation: ___ Common Core ___ Distributed Science or Engineering

___ Major requirement _X_ Elective ___ Other (please describe ____________)

Course description from Bulletin:

EBGN515. ECONOMICS AND DECISION MAKING. 3.0 Hours.
The application of microeconomic theory to business strategy. Understanding the horizontal, vertical, and product boundaries of the modern firm. A framework for analyzing the nature and extent of competition in a firm's dynamic business environment. Developing strategies for creating and sustaining competitive advantage.

Textbook and/or other requirement materials:

Required text:


Student learning outcomes: At the conclusion of the class students will...

1. ... have a solid understanding of the basic models of industrial organization
2. ... be able to apply game theory to strategic interactions
3. ... have a basic understanding of the legal context for competition policy and regulation
4. ... be able to use equilibrium modeling tools to evaluate the impacts of a mergers on competition and other outcomes.
Brief list of topics covered:

1. Microeconomic review and basic firm optimization
2. Industrial organization and the theory of the firm
3. Game theory
4. Competitive analysis and competition policy

Policy on academic integrity/misconduct: The Colorado School of Mines affirms the principle that all individuals associated with the Mines academic community have a responsibility for establishing, maintaining and fostering an understanding and appreciation for academic integrity. In broad terms, this implies protecting the environment of mutual trust within which scholarly exchange occurs, supporting the ability of the faculty to fairly and effectively evaluate every student’s academic achievements, and giving credence to the university’s educational mission, its scholarly objectives and the substance of the degrees it awards. The protection of academic integrity requires there to be clear and consistent standards, as well as confrontation and sanctions when individuals violate those standards. The Colorado School of Mines desires an environment free of any and all forms of academic misconduct and expects students to act with integrity at all times.

Academic misconduct is the intentional act of fraud, in which an individual seeks to claim credit for the work and efforts of another without authorization, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic exercise. Student Academic Misconduct arises when a student violates the principle of academic integrity. Such behavior erodes mutual trust, distorts the fair evaluation of academic achievements, violates the ethical code of behavior upon which education and scholarship rest, and undermines the credibility of the university. Because of the serious institutional and individual ramifications, student misconduct arising from violations of academic integrity is not tolerated at Mines. If a student is found to have engaged in such misconduct sanctions such as change of a grade, loss of institutional privileges, or academic suspension or dismissal may be imposed.

The complete policy is online.

Grading Procedures:

Grades will be determined by the student’s performance on exams and the group project. The student is required to contact the instructor if class meetings conflict with other responsibilities or qualified excuses.

Grades will be assigned according to the following weighting:

- Midterm Exam I (Feb. 16th) 25%
- Midterm Exam II (March 23rd) 25%
- Group Project (Due May 4th) 10%
- Final Exam (As scheduled by CSM—NO EXCEPTIONS) 40%

Generally a grade of A is granted for students scoring greater than 92 points, A- for between 92 and 90 points, B+ for between 90 and 88 points, B for between 82 and 88 points, etc.

Coursework Return Policy: Assignments will be returned within two weeks, along with suitable materials and feedback that enable the student to understand how to improve their learning and performance.

Absence Policy: See the Grading Procedures section above.

Homework: NA

Common Exam Policy: NA
Detailed Course Schedule:

Week of Jan 9th: First Class Jan 12th: Principles of Microeconomics (Markets)
Week of Jan 16th: Microeconomic review continued (efficiency, surplus, cost curves, optimization)
Week of Jan 23th: Firm-level demand and Monopoly
Week of Jan 30th: Perfect and almost perfect competition
Week of Feb 6th: Oligopoly (Cournot, Bertrand, Stackelberg)
Week of Feb 13th: Spatial Competition and MIDTERM EXAM 1 (Feb. 16)
Week of Feb 20nd: Intro to Game Theory
Week of Feb 27th: Game Theory Basics (Nash equilibria and dominated strategies)
Week of March 6th: Game Theory Basics (Normal and extensive forms and sub-game perfection)
Week of March 13th: Repeated games, trigger strategies, and mixed strategy equilibria
Week of March 20th: MIDTERM EXAM 2 (March 23rd)
Week of March 27th: SPRING BREAK
Week of April 3rd: Mixed strategy equilibria cont.
Week of April 10th: Strategic interactions in small groups with collective decision rules
Week of April 17th: Introduction to competition policy
Week of April 24th: Merger simulation models
Week of May 1st: Work on Project (in-class help) and Project Due on Thursday
Week of May 8th: FINAL EXAM as Scheduled by CSM (Do not make travel arrangements until you know when the exam is scheduled. Failure to take the final as scheduled will result in a grade of zero for the final, no exceptions.)