

**SOSC1000A: Behavioral Games (This is NOT a common core course)**  
**SPRING 2013**

**Lectures:** Wednesdays and Fridays, 4:30pm – 5:50pm  
Rm. 2465, Academic Building (Lift 25-26)

**Course Website:** <http://lmes2.ust.hk>

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays, 3:00pm – 5:00pm

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays, 9:00am – 11:00am

**INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT:** TIAN, Yuan

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, 3:00pm-5:00pm

*game n. a form of competitive activity or sport played according to rules*

### **1. Goals:**

The goal of the course is for you to learn something about human behavior and economic decisions through games. The rules of the games have been designed to simulate stylized versions of real world economic situations. The method of instruction will be a combination of classroom experiments, in which you will play the games, and lecture discussions. By the end of this course, you will be able to design and carry out your own experiment using games to test a hypothesis about economic behavior.

Do not read the associated chapters in the textbook before a class experiment (except for the game instructions), it will spoil all the fun! Class meetings where an experiment will be played is marked (E) in the class schedule table.

### **2. Textbooks and Course Materials:**

#### **Required Textbook**

*Markets, Games, and Strategic Behavior*, by Charles Holt

#### **Course Materials**

The course website listed above will provide most course materials and links to other learning resources. You may use your ITSC username and password to log in. All copyrights, however, are reserved. If you need further assistance for the course (e.g., questions about projects), you are very welcome to use our office hours.

### **3. Grading policy:**

In-class exercises and experiment worksheets	10%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Group project write-up	15%
Group project presentation	15%

- The in-class exercises and experiment worksheets will be given full credit as long as they are turned in by the end of class.
- Both exams are closed book exams. The contents covered in the exams are NOT cumulative.
- Be sure to arrive on time for the examination since no additional time will be given to students who arrive late. There will be NO general make-up examination in this course. Your grade will simply be computed as if that particular entry was a zero. The only exceptions are for serious, unforeseen, documented (written note from your doctor), personal medical emergencies. In these cases, the make-up examinations will be closed book and consist of **complex essay questions**.

#### **4. Group project**

In March, you will be assigned into groups for your group project. Each group will be responsible for conducting one experiment. More detailed instructions to come...

There are a number of parts to this project. They are:

- 1) Conduct an in-class experiment. Your group will conduct the entire experiment. You will have to prepare instructions and log sheets, collect any materials needed for the experiment, explain the instructions to the class, run the experiment, keep records, etc. I expect you to meet with me at least one week before your scheduled experiment to make sure you are on track, read over your instructions and log sheets and go over any problems you are having.
- 2) Present the experiment in class. This includes presenting summary tables and graphs, calculating useful statistics, explaining any relevant theory, comparing the experiments to others we have done in class and discussing the conclusions you draw from the experiment.
- 3) Experiment write-up. This will be due on the day of the presentation. Write-ups will include all of the information in part 2 above, as well as a critique of your experiment. (What went well, what went poorly, how would you change things if you had to do them over.) Write-ups should be no less than 3 pages long. Five pages (not including graphs and charts and copies of your experimental materials) is probably an accurate guess for how long "good" papers will be.

#### **5. Re-grade Policy:**

If you want to dispute a grade, please submit your argument in writing along with your project write-up or exam. We will evaluate the merit of your argument as well as perform a full reassessment of your entire write-up or exam. This means that your grade may end up lower than it was originally.

#### **6. Email Policy:**

I will only answer email once a day during the week days. If you send me an email the night before an exam, you will not get a response.

#### **7. Feedback:**

I'd like to enlist your help in making class meetings as useful to you as possible. If you have suggestions for what concepts to review, or any concerns about the class, feel free to tell me during class, come to office hours, or email me. If you prefer to remain anonymous, feel free to drop a note in my mailbox in the Social Sciences Division office (Rm. 3372, Lifts 13-15).

**8. Other policies:** For more information regarding University assessment policies, please see the following websites:

<http://www.ust.hk/vpao/studentassessment/detail.html#1>

<http://www.ust.hk/vpao/studentassessment/files/annex2.pdf>

## CLASS SCHEDULE (Tentative)

<u>Class #</u>	<u>Date/Day</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings: Holt Ch. #</u>	
1	Feb. 1	Fri	Introduction	
2	6	Wed	Pit Market (E)	
3	8	Fri	Pit Market	2
	13	Wed	<i>No class – Lunar New Year</i>	
4	15	Fri	Excel tutorial	
5	20	Wed	Matrix games (E)	
6	22	Fri	Matrix games	3
7	27	Wed	Risk (E)	
8	Mar. 1	Fri	Risk	4
9	6	Wed	Random Strategies (E)	
10	8	Fri	Random Strategies	5
11	13	Wed	Review	2-5
12	15	Fri	<b>Exam 1</b>	
13	20	Wed	Monopoly and Cournot (E)	6
14	22	Fri	Institutions and Market Power	8
15	27	Wed	Market Failure (E)	
	29	Fri	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>	
	Apr. 3	Wed	<i>No class – Spring Break</i>	
16	5	Fri	Market Failure	10
17	10	Wed	Public Goods (E)	
18	12	Fri	Public Goods	14
19	17	Wed	Ultimatum and Dictator (E)	
20	19	Fri	Trust game (E)	
21	24	Wed	Ultimatum, Dictator, Trust	12, 13
22	26	Fri	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	May 1	Wed	<i>No class – Labor Day</i>	
23	3	Fri	Experiments – first half	
24	8	Wed	Experiments – second half	
25	10	Fri	Presentations – first half	
26	15	Wed	Presentations – second half	

Updated Jan. 30, 2013