

University of Oregon
Department of Economics
Spring Term 2016
ECN 360
Issues in Industrial Organization

Instructor: Taylor McKenzie

Office: PLC 417

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 11AM-12PM, or by appointment

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Course Description: This course examines market performance and policy to address issues in performance. Specifically, the course develops a framework to assess market performance based on economic efficiency and then proceeds to apply the general framework to competition policy and antitrust laws.

Objectives: The objectives of this course are for the student to:

- 1) Gain an understanding of market models and economic efficiency.
- 2) Gain an understanding of specific issues that arise where competition may fail to give efficiency.
- 3) Gain an understanding of antitrust legislation both historically and in the context of market outcomes.

Course Text: Blair, Roger D., and David L. Kaserman. "Antitrust economics." Oxford University Press, (2009).

Grading: There will be two midterms and a final, as well as homework assignments and announced quizzes. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

20%	HOMEWORK
10%	TWO QUIZZES
40%	TWO MIDTERMS October 19th & November 16th
30%	FINAL 2:45pm Monday, December 5th

2 Homeworks:

Homework assignments must be handed in **at the beginning of class** on their due date. **Late homework will not be accepted**; however, your lowest homework score this term will be dropped. You may work together on assignments but each student is required to write and submit independent solutions. This means that word-for-word copies of your peer's work will not be accepted and will be viewed as academic dishonesty.

Exams and Quizzes:

No makeup exams or quizzes will be given. In the case of a missed midterm or quiz due to unanticipated emergency situations, the student will be allowed to put the weight of the missed exam on the final exam, provided I am notified as soon as possible and

verification of the emergency is given. If you miss both midterms for any reason, you will receive a zero for at least one of the midterms. A missed final due to an unanticipated emergency will be handled with an “incomplete” for the course. **Do not take this class if you already know you cannot make one of the scheduled exams.**

The midterms will be in class on **October 19th & November 16th**.

The final exam will be **2:45pm Monday, December 5th**. It will be a cumulative exam covering all the material in the course.

All exams will be closed-note and closed-book. You may have a pen or pencil and a non-programmable hand-held calculator at your desk while taking an exam.

Re-grading:

In order to request that an exam be re-graded, you must attach a written explanation of which problems should be re-graded and the reasons for the re-grade to the original assignment. This must be handed in to the GTF within a week of the assignment being returned to the class. They will re-grade the entire assignment, not only the problems in question. This means that your grade may be higher or lower after the re-grade.

Academic Dishonesty Policy: Academic dishonesty (from plagiarizing work to cheating on exams) will not be tolerated. Please acquaint yourself with the Student Conduct Code, which you can find online at the webpage for the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs: <http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/>. If I have reason to believe that a student is violating the Student Conduct Code, I will involve the Student Judicial Affairs Office if necessary.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities (164 Oregon Hall) send me a letter verifying your disability.

Electronics: Cell phones must be turned off (or on silent) during class and put away from sight. Laptops may be used during class, but only for activities directly related to the course. If the use of laptops becomes disruptive then the entire class will lose the privilege.

3GTF/Lab Instructor: Xiang Li (xli4@uoregon.edu)

Office: 311 PLC

Office Hours: TBD

Telephone: 541-346-7755

Outline of Course Material:

The following is a tentative schedule of lectures. The schedule should be viewed as tentative and may be subject to change throughout the term.

Week 1: Introduction to Course and Antitrust, Review of Competition and Monopoly Models, Chapters 1-3

Week 2: Market Definition and Monopolization, Chapter 6-7

- Week 3: Exclusionary Practices, Chapter 8.
- Week 4: Intro to Game Theory, Class Notes and **MIDTERM 1**
- Week 5: Collusion, Chapters 9-10
- Week 6: Oligopoly and Tacit Collusion, Chapter 11
- Week 7: Horizontal Mergers, Chapter 12
- Week 8: Vertical Integration and Merger Policy, Chapter 14-15 and **MIDTERM 2**
- Week 9: The Internet, Software, and Network Externalities, Class Notes
- Week 10: Contemporary Issue in Industrial Organizations: Net Neutrality, Class Notes
- Final**