

# MA 440 Syllabus Fall 2014

## Time and Place

11:20–12:10 Daniels 371

## Instructor

Stephen Schecter

E-mail: [schecter@ncsu.edu](mailto:schecter@ncsu.edu)

Office: SAS 3226

Office hours: MWF 1:30–2:20 p.m.

Office telephone number: 919-515-6533

Office fax number: 919-513-7336

## Prerequisites

MA 231 or MA 242.

## Moodle

The course website is hosted by Moodle. You can find it by logging into Wolfware at [wolfware.ncsu.edu](http://wolfware.ncsu.edu). I will usually communicate with the class by posting to the General Forum of our course in Moodle. Please post any questions about the course that may be of general interest the same way. Then the answer will be posted there and will stay available for future reference. You will receive an email when a post is made to the General Forum.

You can also use the General Forum for discussions about homework, etc.

The course website on Moodle can only be viewed by students registered in the course.

## Text

The text for the course is Introduction to Game Theory (Schecter and Gintis), available as a free pdf file on our Moodle course website. I suggest that you not print the text. Instead, read the pdf file on a screen using Adobe Reader or a similar program. There are two reasons:

1. The pdf file includes clickable links between the various parts and links to web pages.
- 2, I may revise the notes from time to time, for example if you find a mistake!

At the end of the preface to the notes is a list of changes since the beginning of the semester.

## **Class attendance**

Students are expected to arrive on time, to contribute to group work and class discussions, and to stay until the class ends.

## **Homework**

I will assign homework regularly on Moodle to be turned in and graded. You will receive an email when there is a new assignment, or an addition or correction to an assignment.

You will divide into pairs to do homework assignments. Each pair of students should work on the assignment together and submit one assignment for the pair. Both students in the pair should understand all submitted answers and agree with them. Both students in the pair will get the same grade.

You can use the General Forum to find a homework partner. If you prefer a group of three, just let me know.

Please feel free to discuss homework all you want with students from other pairs or with me. However, **each pair of students should write up solutions itself**. You should not (of course) copy them.

Please see the University guidelines on academic integrity: Code of Student Conduct, items 8 and 9 (<http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>).

Each homework assignment has a due date. It must be submitted as a **single pdf file** by 11:45 p.m. on that day through our course website on Moodle. One student in each group will submit. Just make sure both your names are on the paper.

If you type your homework, for example with Microsoft Word, it should be easy to save it as a pdf file and submit it.

If you write out your homework, you can use a scanner to produce a pdf file.

If your scanner produces a different file type, you can use a free web site such as PictureResize (<http://www.pictureresize.org/online-images-converter.html>) to convert it to a pdf file. (After you convert your file, you must click on "Download.") Alternatively, with a Mac you can click on Print in the File menu, then on PDF in the popup window, then on Save as PDF.

If your scanner produces a separate pdf file for each page, you can use a free web site, such as MergePDF (<http://foxyutils.com/mergepdf>), or software such as Adobe Acrobat, to merge your separate pdf files into a single pdf file. With a Mac, you can use Preview to merge your files; google "mac preview merge pdf" for more information.

There is a scanner available for student use in SAS 2105 (see <http://www.math.ncsu.edu/mmc/hours.php> for hours).

Graded homework will be returned through Moodle to both students in the pair.

## Tests

There will be two tests and a final exam. For dates see the Schedule, available on our course website on Moodle. Test dates are also in the Moodle Calendar.

If you miss a test, I will need a letter documenting the reason. Makeup tests can only be given for reasons such as illness, emergency, participation in a University-sponsored event, required court attendance or military duty, or religious observances as certified by the Department of Student Development.

If you know you will be absent on a test date, you must clear the absence with me in advance and schedule a makeup date. In the case of an unanticipated absence on a test date, you must give me documentation and schedule a makeup date as soon as possible.

See the University policy on attendance at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03> and scroll down to "Excused Absences."

## Grading

Homework counts 2/9 of your grade.  
Each in-class test counts 2/9 of your grade.  
The final counts 1/3 of your grade.

You may use the Moodle Grade Book to check your grades. Please let me know if any are incorrect.

97=A+, 93=A, 90=A-, etc.

## Optional paper

There is an optional paper for students in the Mathematics Department who want to satisfy the major paper requirement, and for students who want honors credit in the course. **If you are doing the paper to satisfy the major paper requirement, you must also register for MA 494-001.** If you want honors credit in the course, please consult your own honors program to find out what permissions or paperwork are necessary.

The paper should be on an application of game theory in an area of interest to you, and should include a description of the situation, appropriate game theory models with justification, analysis of the models, and conclusions about the original situation. An appropriate length is 10–15 pages. You may find some ideas in the Resources section.

The paper will substitute for the lowest 1/9 of your grade, if this improves your grade. For example, if the lowest of your grades is homework, and the paper grade is higher than the homework grade, I will count the paper 1/9 and homework 1/9 rather than 2/9. Minimum grade on the paper is C- for the major paper requirement and B+ for honors credit.

### **Schedule for this paper (also in the Moodle Calendar):**

Oct. 13 - 15	Talk to instructor about possible topics
Oct. 17	Instructor approves topic
Nov. 14	First draft due
Dec. 3	Final draft due

## **Students with Disabilities**

Information on NC State services for students with disabilities can be found at [http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/disabilities/learning\\_disabilities.html](http://www.ncsu.edu/dso/disabilities/learning_disabilities.html).