

**ECON 436: Economics of Coordination**

**Spring 2022: Section A3/A4: TR 11:00-12:20 pm, 123 DKH**

**Department of Economics • UIUC**

**Syllabus**

**Class Compass Site: <https://compass2q.illinois.edu/>**

**Instructor:** Ali Toossi

**Office:** 205 David Kinley Hall

**Phone:** 333-6777

**E-mail:** [toossi@illinois.edu](mailto:toossi@illinois.edu)

**Office hours:** MW 3:00 -4:00 pm or by appointment.

- (1) In order to make it easier for you to ask questions I have created a discussion board in compass with the following forums:
  - a. a forum for your feedbacks about the lectures and for answering questions regarding the lectures. I welcome any suggestions about improving the lectures.
  - b. a forum to answer question about assignment and exams.
- (2) The best way to contact me is to post a question in the discussion board. You can also send me an email at "toossi@illinois.edu". I will try to respond as soon as I can.

**Objective:** This course is an extension of the intermediate microeconomics. The focus of the course will be on the problems of collective action and coordination failures. We consider institutions and their importance for economic performance with emphasis on the role of markets and government. In this course we will use optimization and basic game theory extensively.

**Prerequisites:** I do not recommend you take this course unless you know:

- 1- **Microeconomics:** at the intermediate level
- 2- **Calculus:** differentiation, Constraint & unconstraint optimization

**Textbook:** There is no *required* textbook. I will provide lecture notes and additional readings as the course progress. However, some of the lectures will be based on the following texts.

- The Economy by the CORE project: <http://core-econ.org/>.  
For free registration go to: <http://read.core-econ.org/register>
- Bowles, Samuel. *Microeconomics: Behavior, Institutions, and Evolution*. Princeton University Press. 2003

**Grades:**

- For students taking course for 3 credit hours grades will be based on homework assignments (20%), midterm (35%), and a cumulative final exam (45%).
- For students taking course for 4 credit hours grades will be based on homework assignments (20%), three exams: midterm (25%), a cumulative final exam (40%), and a paper (15%).
- **Grades Cutoffs:** A +/- scale will be used. The cut-offs for +/- are as follows (there will be adjustments based on the performance of the class):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
≥97%	≥93%	≥89.5%	≥87%	≥83%	≥79.5%	≥77%	≥73%	≥69.5%	≥67%	≥63%	≥59.5%

**Homework:** The assignment with the lowest grade will be dropped. All assignments should be prepared neatly and professionally:

- Papers should be stapled.
- Assignments should contain the following information on the **right-hand corner** of the page: your name, assignment identification and date.
- Assignments that are sloppy, torn from spiral-bound notebooks, or which are illegible, or unstapled, will be graded down.
- No late assignment will be accepted.

**Exams:** In addition to the final exam, there will be a midterm exam. You can use a simple calculator. There are to be no books, papers other than the exam itself. **No cell-phone use is allowed during the exam.** Students found to be using unapproved items are in violation of the Academic Integrity policy of the University and will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Exam Dates**

- **Midterm:** Thursday March 10 During class time
- **Final Exam:** Thursday May 12, 8:00-11:00 am, in room ??

If you cannot take the test because of illness, you must provide a formal statement from a **doctor**, in addition to the note from the Emergency dean. The doctor’s statement should explain why your illness prevents you from taking the test on the date specified above.

**Final Exam Conflict Policy:**

From the University’s final exam policy:

- Any student having more than two consecutive final examinations is entitled to rescheduling as follows if he or she takes the following action no later than the last day of classes:
  - The student must investigate whether a conflict examination is being held at another time for any of the examinations involved.
  - If a conflict examination has been scheduled for any of the courses, the student must take one or more of these conflict examinations. If conflict examinations are offered for more than one course, the student must take the conflict for the course that has the largest number of students.

## ECON 436: Syllabus

- If no conflict examinations have been scheduled, the student must contact the instructor of the course having the largest number of students. The contact must be made no later than the last day of classes, and that instructor must provide a makeup examination.

The University's final exam policy is available at:

[http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3\\_part2\\_3-201.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article3_part2_3-201.html)

### **Attendance:**

- Attendance is required. I usually take attendance at the beginning of the lecture. Please try to be on time. In case you are late, take the first available seat and try not to disrupt the class.
- Except for an emergency, you are not allowed to leave the lecture before it ends. In case there is something important, that makes you to leave the lecture early, please tell me about it before the beginning of the lecture.
- **PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE DURING LECTURE.**

### **Emergency Response Recommendations:**

The university maintains guidelines for emergency responses. A list of recommendations when to evacuate and when to find shelter are available at:

[http://illinois.edu/cms/2251/general\\_emergency\\_response\\_recommendations\\_8\\_16\\_13\\_final.docx](http://illinois.edu/cms/2251/general_emergency_response_recommendations_8_16_13_final.docx)

*How to respond to an emergency: run/hide/fight:*

<http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/run-hide-fight/>

### **Statement on Accommodations:**

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or email a message to [disability@illinois.edu](mailto:disability@illinois.edu).

### **Academic Integrity:**

"The University has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of education and research on our campus and to protect those who depend upon our integrity. *Expectations of Students*. It is the responsibility of each student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Students have been given notice of this Part by virtue of its publication. Regardless of whether a student has actually read this Part, a student is charged with knowledge of it. Ignorance is not a defense."

The University's full academic integrity policy is available at:

[http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1\\_part4\\_1-401.html](http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-401.html)