

Industrial Competition & Monopoly (ECON 480):
Spring 2022: *Section A3/A4:TR 2:00-3:20; 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

Office hours: *MW 2:00 -3:00 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 and the lecture notes. 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 possible.

TA: Yuqing Han(yuqingh2@illinois.edu) **Office hours:** 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

Yuqing will hold online office hours. So, if you need to see her during her office hours, please send her an email in advance and she will send you Zoom link.

Objective: Industrial Organization, Industrial economics, Oligopoly, Imperfect Competition, ... all these are well known labels to address one of the oldest problems in economics, namely what factors determine the structure of the market, how firms behave in the market when there are few competitors and what is their performance. We will develop the theoretical framework necessary for analyzing market structure, firm behavior & performance.

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: The following textbook is required:

“Introduction to Industrial Organization” By Luis M. B. Cabral 2nd Ed, MIT press

Textbook Link: <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/introduction-industrial-organization-second-edition>

Author’s website: <http://luiscabral.net/economics/books/iio2/>

Grades:

For students taking course for 3 credit hours grades will be based on homework assignments (20%) & three exams: midterm 1 (20%), midterm 2 (25%) and a cumulative final exam (35%).

For students taking course for 4 credit hours grades will be based on homework assignments (15%), three exams: midterm 1 (15%), midterm 2 (20%) and a cumulative final exam (35%). and a paper (15%).

Grades Cutoffs: I use a +/- scale. 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:

- (1) The assignment with the lowest grade will be dropped.
- (2) I will post the assignments in Compass in the PDF format.
- (3) You can do your work in whatever program you are comfortable with (e.g., Word) but all solutions must be submitted in PDF format.
- (4) You can also complete the assignments on paper, scan them, save them as a PDF file, and submit them. If you choose to do your assignments on paper, they must be completed neatly, professionally, and legibly.
- (5) Assignments should contain the following information on the **right-hand corner** of the first page: **your name**, assignment number, and the date.
- (6) *you must submit your solution to the assignments in Compass. Follow the instructions below:*
 - 1) Go to "Compass 2g/Econ 480-Spring 22" site
 - 2) Click on "Upload Assignments" Link on the left panel.
 - 3) Click on "HW##" and upload your solution. The symbols ## stand for assignment number.
 - 4) You can upload a PDF file. Make sure you name each file you submit as follows: "HW##-First name_Last name" The symbols ## stand for assignment number.

Exams:

- (1) Exams are tentatively scheduled for the following dates and during the class times.
 - Exam 1:** Thursday February 24; During class time
 - Exam 2:** Thursday April 7, During class time
 - Final Exam:** Wednesday May 11; 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
- (2) If you cannot take a test because of illness, you must provide me with 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 below.

Term Paper (*This is only required from students taking the course for four credit hours.*)

The goal of this assignment is for students to connect the concepts they learn in the class to real-world events and observations. Note that it is not enough to choose a general topic and write a summary of information about it. I expect you to pose a specific question. Your paper should explore the possible answers to that question using economic reasoning, evidence, and analysis. When I read your essay, I will be looking especially for appropriate use of the concepts and terms that we discussed in class - your explanations should provide enough background for a reader who has not taken the course. For an example about the topic and the content go to Compass.

- **Teamwork:** Students may work together on a single term paper that they submit as a group. These groups must not exceed two people.
- **Paper proposal:** due by **11:59 pm April 11**. Upload your proposal in Compass in the link provided.
- In approximately one page, the proposal should:
 - Clearly identify the question that you plan to address.
 - Give some background on the question's context and explain why it is interesting.
 - Indicate at least two specific of information that you will use to answer the question.
- **Term Paper:** due by **11:59 pm Wednesday May 4**. Upload your paper in Compass in the link provided.
- The final paper should clearly state a well-defined question or questions related to the course material, explain the context and significance of those questions, and discuss their possible answers.
- **Paper length:** I am more interested in the quality of your output than the quantity. However, I expect the paper to be at least 15 pages long.

Attendance:

Attendance is required. If, for any reason you cannot attend, you need to contact me to get my approval for absence.

Academic Assistance

Students are encouraged to utilize the many resources we have throughout campus to assist with academics. We recommend that you seek them out starting early in the semester, not just in times of academic need, in order to develop good study habits and submit work which represents your full academic potential. Many resources are found on the Economics Website including details about the Economics Tutoring Center, Academic Advising, and other academic support options: <https://economics.illinois.edu/academics/undergraduate-program/academic-student-support>

Academic Integrity

According to the Student Code, '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.' Please know that it is my responsibility as an instructor to uphold the academic integrity policy of the University, which can be found here:

<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-401/>

Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade. Every student is expected to review and abide by the Academic Integrity Policies. It is your responsibility to read this policy to avoid any misunderstanding. Do not hesitate to ask the instructor(s) if you are ever in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, or any other breach of academic integrity. **Read the full Student Code at**

<https://studentcode.illinois.edu/>

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or e-mail a message to

disability@illinois.edu. DRES Website: www.disability.illinois.edu/

Community of Care

As members of the Illinois community, we each have a responsibility to express care and concern for one another. If you come across a classmate whose behavior concerns you, whether in regards to their well-being or yours, we encourage you to refer this behavior to the Student Assistance Center (217-333-0050 or <http://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/referral/>). Based on your report, the staff in the Student Assistance Center reaches out to students to make sure they have the support they need to be healthy and safe. Further, we understand the impact that struggles with mental health can have on your experience at Illinois. Significant stress, strained relationships, anxiety, excessive worry, alcohol/drug problems, a loss of motivation, or problems with eating and/or sleeping can all interfere with optimal academic performance. We encourage all students to reach out to talk with someone, and we want to make sure you are aware that you can access mental health support at the Counseling Center (<https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/>) or McKinley Health Center (<https://mckinley.illinois.edu/>).

For mental health emergencies, you can call 911 or walk into the Counseling Center, no appointment needed.

Disruptive Behavior

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such

behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office for Student Conflict Resolution for disciplinary action.

Emergency Response Recommendations

Emergency response recommendations can be found at the following website: <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/>. I encourage you to review this website and the campus building floor plans website within the first 10 days of class. <http://police.illinois.edu/emergency-preparedness/building-emergency-actionplans/>.

Religious Observances

The Religious Observance Accommodation Request form is available at <https://odos.illinois.edu/community-of-care/resources/students/religious-observances/>. Submit the form to the instructor and to the Office of the Dean of Students (helpdean@illinois.edu) by the end of the second week of the course; in the case of exams or assignments scheduled after this period, students should submit the form to the instructor and to the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Any student who has suppressed their directory information pursuant to Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) should self-identify to the instructor to ensure protection of the privacy of their attendance in this course. See <http://registrar.illinois.edu/ferpa> for more information on FERPA. Student information and records will not be released to anyone other than the student unless the student has provided written approval or as required by law.

Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligation

The University of Illinois is committed to combating sexual misconduct. Faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct to the University's Title IX and Disability Office. In turn, an individual with the Title IX and Disability Office will provide information about rights and options, including accommodations, support services, the campus disciplinary process, and law enforcement options. A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors, confidential advisors, and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: <http://www.wecare.illinois.edu/resources/students/#confidential>. Other information about resources and reporting is available here: <http://wecare.illinois.edu/>.

Student Support

The Counseling Center is committed to providing a range of services intended to help students develop improved coping skills in order to address emotional,

interpersonal, and academic concerns. Please visit their website to find valuable resources and services: <https://counselingcenter.illinois.edu/>.

Counseling Center Information: 217-333-3704

Location: Room 206, Student Services Building (610 East John Street, Champaign IL)

McKinley Mental Health Information: 217-333-2705

Location: 3rd Floor McKinley Health Center 1109 South Lincoln, Urbana, IL

Emergency Dean: The Emergency Dean may be reached at (217) 333-0050 and supports students who are experiencing an emergency after 5 pm, in which an immediate University response is needed, and which cannot wait until the next business day. The Emergency Dean is not a substitute for trained emergency personnel such as 911, Police or Fire. If you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911. Please review the Emergency Dean procedures:

<http://odos.illinois.edu/emergency/>