Competition Economics II  Advanced Industrial Organization
ECON 458 A01 CRN 21045  ECON 510  CRN 21049

Pascal Courty

January-April 2019
Mon, Wed: 1630 - 1750 , HHB 116
Office hours:  Mo-Fr 12.30-13.30 in BEC 340 or email me at pcourty@uvic.ca
Course material will be posted on CourseSpaces

Course Description: This course covers the fundamentals of the theory of industrial organization. It will be complemented by industry applications and discussions of competition policy cases. Topics covered may include: 1. Market Power; 2. Product Differentiation; 3. Pricing; 4. Behavioral IO; 5. Licensing.

Course Objectives: You will learn how to use modern tools in industrial organization to analyze business strategies and frame policy issues. The course will cover formal models, empirical applications, academic research papers, and real-world case studies. Student will acquire a language and an ability to structure problems that is necessary to address practical questions related to firm strategies and market conduct as well as their implications to industrial and competition policy.

Pre- or Co-requisites: ECON 310A and ECON 313; and ECON 345 or ECON 365.

Textbooks and reading material

You may also want to consult the following sources:

Evaluation
Your final grade will be computed as follows:

- **30%** Reading commitment
- **40%** Two Midterm exams
- **10%** In-class presentation (research paper or project)
- **20%** Essay on a current policy issue of firm/industry case study

The University’s grading scale with numerical score/letter grade equivalency, and descriptions can be found at the following: [University Grading Schedule](#)

**Reading Commitment.** I will post questions related to the next class’ assigned readings. You are expected to prepare a short write-up. The questions are to help you understand the material. Some of the questions may be analytical and ask you to solve a simple problem. Be prepared to ask questions in class on issues you did not understand. I will post a set of question about every other week (7 in total). You are expected to answer at least 5 sets and I will give you feedback on 3. This will count for 20%. The remaining 10% will be for 2 short empirical problem sets using STATA.

**Presentation.** Each student will make a short presentation during the term that is of interest to the class. The presentation should be about 5 minutes followed by questions. Your presentation may be about a paper or your project. I will discuss with you the papers that are appropriate for the presentation. You could select a research paper that is related to your topic for your final essay. Alternatively, you can present a classic paper in industrial organization.

**Essay.** Your essay should focus on some aspect of the literature related to industrial organization. The essay can take several forms. It could be an empirical investigation, a theory extension, or a literature review. The paper should be no longer than 1200 words excluding references (display your word count).
Course Experience Survey (CES)
I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to http://ces.uvic.ca. You will need to use your U Vic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be done on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course. (1) What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course? (2) Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively. (3) Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Policies
This course adheres to the Undergraduate Course Policies of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues: Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating); Attendance; Grading; Academic concessions; Travel plans; Students with a disability; Policy on inclusivity and diversity

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Examinations
Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar: University Examination Policies

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Classroom Etiquette
Behave politely and professionally. Do not disturb or distract your fellow students or the instructor.

Academic Integrity
Please browse What is Plagiarism for the definition of plagiarism.

Language
English is the language of instruction at the University and for all aspects of this course. Dictionaries are not allowed in examinations.

E-mail
You may contact me at my U Vic email address. Please include both your legal name (the name in the university records) and course title in the subject of your email.