

Course Policies for MATH1225—Game Theory Fall 2009

Instructor: Professor Tom Sherman,
Phone: 617-373-2785,
Conference hours:

Office: 455 Lake Hall
Email: t.sherman@neu.edu

Text: *Game Theory—Class Notes and Problems*, available from Gnomon Copy Center 325 Huntington Avenue (across from the YMCA).

About this course

This course satisfies the Introductory Level Mathematical Thinking NU Core requirement. It is intended for mathematically strong students who might otherwise take MATHU1215, but are willing and able to get more out of a more advanced course. According to the Preface to the *Notes*,

The central method of the course is *game theory*, a mathematical approach to these difficult problems [of war, diplomacy, etc.]. The course does not necessarily advocate game theory as a solution. What we hope it will do is to challenge you to think in new ways about these (and other) age-old problems, and to expand your vision, imagination, and analytical capacity for responding to them.

Consequently you are urged to think, ask questions, and participate in class discussion. I will post specific office hours after polling the class regarding times that will work. Until then, if you have questions, please talk with me on an individual basis about when we could get together. Once conference hours have been established, you may come to them without making an appointment, but you can also still make an appointment to meet outside of conference hours. You can also communicate with me and other students via email and Blackboard. Check Blackboard regularly for course announcements.

Class discussion is important, so attendance is important. If you miss a class, it will take a percentage point off your final grade. I want you there to share your ideas and to hear the ideas of others. When you miss a class there is really no way to effectively recapture that experience.

We will work through the *Notes* at an average pace of 4 pages a day, or 12 pages a week, although at first we will go faster. The *Notes* contain many problem sets and homework assignments. In general, when an assignment is given, it should be handed in during the next class unless you are told otherwise. Written work should be word-processed, spell-checked, grammatical, and well-written. You are free to discuss ideas with other students, but what you hand me must be your own work. I regard plagiarism as a serious academic crime.

Grading

The written homework assignments are worth 8% of the grade. There will be weekly quizzes worth 32% of the grade, an hour test worth 20% and a final exam worth 40%. Remember the attendance policy (−1% per missed class).

If you think you see a mistake in the *Notes* or any other written material I give you, quietly tell me. If I agree and you are the first person to do so, you get a homework credit. I will then point it out to the rest of the class.

At the end of the course, I will convert your numerical percentage score \mathcal{S} into a letter grade according to the following scheme.

For $\mathcal{S} \geq$	$93\frac{1}{3}$	90	$86\frac{2}{3}$	$83\frac{1}{3}$	80		
and $\mathcal{S} <$	∞	$93\frac{1}{3}$	90	$86\frac{2}{3}$	$83\frac{1}{3}$		
letter grade is	A	A ⁻	B ⁺	B	B ⁻		

For $\mathcal{S} \geq$	$76\frac{2}{3}$	$73\frac{1}{3}$	70	$66\frac{2}{3}$	$63\frac{1}{3}$	60	0
and $\mathcal{S} <$	80	$76\frac{2}{3}$	$73\frac{1}{3}$	70	$66\frac{2}{3}$	$63\frac{1}{3}$	60
letter grade is	C ⁺	C	C ⁻	D ⁺	D	D ⁻	F

Makeup policy for quizzes: At the end of the semester there will be an opportunity to make up two quizzes of your choice. The makeup quizzes will resemble, but not be identical to, the original quizzes. Your makeup grade will replace the old grade only if it is better. Use this opportunity to improve your quiz average. With special exceptions noted below, there are no other makeups. If you miss a quiz, it will count as a 0, and you will probably have to use up one of your two makeups by retaking it. There is no makeup on either the hour test or final exam and no makeup of the makeups, so be sure you get to them! Our final exam is scheduled for _____ at _____.

The very limited exception to the “no makeups” policy is for a University-sanctioned absence, such as military service, jury duty, participation in a University sponsored athletic or other performance event in which you play an essential role. (Being a spectator does not count.) Under some circumstances a documented medical absence may lead to a makeup. In all such cases the makeup test will be harder and will cover more material than the regular test.

The grade *I* (Incomplete) is rarely given, and then only when a student in good standing (*C* or better) is unable to complete a requirement of the course for reasons beyond his or her control. (Typical example: missed final exam due to being hospitalized.) In such cases I should be notified as soon as possible and we should agree on exactly what needs to be done to clear the *I*. The *I* grade may not be used to rescue a failing grade.

Under no circumstances will you be permitted to miss the hour test or final exam due to travel plans. DO NOT MAKE PLANE RESERVATIONS that could conflict with your exam schedule.

Complaints and appeals

I have a self-image of being open to criticism, complaints, etc., so you can appeal to that if you want to argue a point. But if for any reason you feel you cannot resolve your concern by talking about it with me, the next step up the Departmental chain of command is the Undergraduate Director, Professor Alexander Martsinkovsky, alexmart@neu.edu, 617-373-5510, 471 Lake Hall.