

GMU Graduate Industrial Organization I Syllabus

[Economics](#) 846-001 (#14670), meets 7:20-10:00pm, Tuesdays, during Spring 2017, in Carow Hall main room.

Instructor: Robin D. Hanson, Assoc. Professor, [Economics](#) (rhanson@gmu.edu, <http://hanson.gmu.edu>)

Office Hours: Officially Tuesdays 6-7p, but I'm usually in at [Carow Hall](#) 10B. Email or call ahead (703-993-2326) if you want to be sure I'll be in, or if you want to meet somewhere besides my office.

Catalog Entry:

Econ 844 Industrial Organization and Public Policy I (3:3:0). Prerequisite: ECON 611 or permission of instructor. Structure of American industry and underlying determinants. Analysis of structure and conduct on industrial performance in light of theory and empirical evidence. Rational antitrust policy and analysis of impact on structure and performance.

Class Concept

By grad school, students know the drill cold: read assignments, hear lectures, do homework, and spit it all back on the exam. Problem is, just then the game changes from grades to papers; few will care about your grades, compared to your research papers, written and published. A research paper is not a term paper, and can't be dashed off the weekend before it is due. A research paper does not offer a broad overview; it says something specific and new, even if minor, that [fits in a context](#) of other research papers.

My class is designed for this transition. Instead of covering many topics briefly, we cover fewer deeper. The research paper is half your grade, and can be all if you want. You must choose a model paper early in the semester, write a referee report on it, and present it in class. Then meeting with me frequently one on one, we look for and then create some variation on that model paper.

Assignments:

- **Class Participation** Please contribute to class discussions.
- **Homework** When homework problems are assigned, they are due in class the following week. You may discuss overall issues with others, but must work out the details of each problem for yourself.
- **Turn in Model Paper** By Feb. 28, turn in a copy of your chosen model paper (via paper or email). This should be a published academic paper, at least remotely related to industrial organization.
- **Referee Report** By Mar. 7, turn in a two page referee report, evaluating your model paper as if for a journal.
- **Paper Concept Meeting** By March 28, meet with me to discuss possible concepts for your research paper. Ideally we would meet several times over the semester.

- **Presentations** Each student will make two presentations in class, each about five to ten minutes long. On March 7, you present your referee report. On May 2, you present your research paper.
- **Research Paper** A research paper is NOT a term paper; it says something new and original, however minor. Talk to me early and often about your paper; I really can help. Research papers are due May 2.
- **Exams** A midterm and a final exam will be given in class, with questions similar to the lectures and homework. Exams are open book, open notes. Midterm is in class March 21, final is May 16, 7:30-10:15pm.
- **Grade Weights:** Model paper 2%, Paper concept meeting 2%, Each presentation 2%, Referee Report 3%, Homework 4%, Midterm 15%, Final 20%, Research Paper 50%. You can elect to have your entire grade based on your research paper, but only if you tell me by March 7.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Shy	Lecture Topic	Assignment
Jan 24	2,3	Overview and Lockin	Look for Model Paper
Jan 31	4,5,6	Homogeneous Products & Free Entry	
Feb 7	7	Differentiated Products	
Feb 14	12	Quality and Regulation	
Feb 21	11,16	Ads and Search	
Feb 28	10	Standards	
Mar 7		<i>Paper Presentations</i>	
Mar 14		<i>Spring Break</i>	
Mar 21		<i>Midterm Exam</i>	
Mar 28	9	Research and Development	
Apr 4		TBD	
Apr 11		TBD	
Apr 18	15	Incentives	
Apr 25		Organization Information Systems	
May 2		<i>Paper Presentations</i>	
May 16		<i>Final Exam</i>	

Sources

[On the web page, this links to a page of sources, most of which have links.](#)

Suggested Texts:

[Oz Shy, *Industrial Organization, Theory and Applications*, MIT Press, ISBN 0-262-69179-5, 1996. \(errata\)](#)

Jean Tirole, [The Theory of Industrial Organization](#), MIT Press, ISBN 0-262-20071-6, 1994.

Dennis Carlton and Jeffrey Perloff, [Modern Industrial Organization, Forth Edition](#), Addison-Wesley, ISBN: 0-321-18023-2, 2005.

Disability Notice

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703.993.2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.