Initial Syllabus for Econ 8000-004
Strategic Information Acquisition and Transmission
August 18, 2022

Professor. Steve Matthews, stevenma@econ.upenn.edu.

Class Hours. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:15-11:45 am, room TBA.

Office Hours. Mondays, 11-12 am in 618 PCPSE, or by appointment.

Description. This is a half-semester course covering the topics in microeconomic theory described below. It is designed for economics Ph.D. students in their second or third year, and is intended to get them thinking about research topics that are currently of interest in the profession. The course methodology will consist primarily of the presentation and discussion of classic and recent articles.

Evaluation. Grades will be based equally on (1) presentations of articles; (2) one homework assignment, and (3) your choice of either a research proposal or a referee report on a paper not presented in class.

Topics. The tentative list of topics is (1) cheap talk, (2) orderings of information structures and the value of information, (3) Bayesian persuation, and (4) information acquisition. Each of these could easily fill the entire half semester, so we will be very selective and not at all comprehensive. The papers to be explicitly covered in class are those with an asterisk (*).

Topic 1: Cheap Talk

Cheap talk survey


One-dimensional cheap talk


Multidimensional cheap talk


**Dynamic cheap talk**


**Cheap talk refinements**


Cheap talk with information acquisition


Very recent cheap talk work


Topic 2: Information Orders

Topic 3: Bayesian Persuasion

Topic 4: Information Acquisition