

Syllabus: ECON 712-001
Topics in Applied Industrial Organization
University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2018
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10.30-12pm
Room
<https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1392122>

Instructors: Juan Pablo Atal
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Course description. We will study price discrimination, advertising, asymmetric information, choice frictions, vertical relationships, quality, among other topics in modern IO. The aim of this course is to prepare students to conduct original research at the frontier of Industrial Organization.

Course prerequisites. This course presumes knowledge of micro theory, basic game theory, and graduate-level econometrics. Student may find it helpful to have taken Econ 712-007.

Course requirements.

- **Referee Report:** Each student will prepare a referee report of Daniel Waldinger’s Job Market Paper, “Targeting In-Kind Transfers Through Market Design: A Revealed Preference Analysis of Public Housing Allocation,” <https://economics.mit.edu/files/14221>.
- **Research Proposal:** Students will initially submit an initial description of a research question, including motivation and a brief literature review. Following the proposal, we will meet one-on-one with each student to discuss the proposal and next steps. After the meetings, students will have two weeks to update the proposal to incorporate feedback.
- **Presentation:** The last two weeks of class are reserved for presentations based on the research proposals.
- **Readings:** Readings are required, and the dates for each reading will be posted on the course website. Please check the website before each class to ensure that you are prepared to participate fully. While students are not expected to grasp all aspect of the papers (some material is quite advanced), please make a serious attempt to understand the basics of the paper before class. Then we will delve into more depth during lectures.

Course deadlines.

Please note that due dates are tentative, and subject to change. The deadlines will be clearly indicated on the assignments themselves and also on the course website.

Thursday 2/1: Referee Report Due. In-class discussion of the paper.

Thursday 3/1: Initial Research Proposal Due.

Thursday 3/29: Updated Research Proposal Due.

Tuesday 3/13 & 3/15: Individual Meetings about Research Proposals.

Tuesday 4/10 - Tuesday 4/24: In-Class Presentations.

Other course resources and policies.

- Assignments. These must be turned in to the instructor by the start of class on the day on which the assignment is due (no later than 1:35 PM). In fairness to students who complete assignments on time, there will be no extensions for any assignments. Late assignments will receive no credit, however, we are happy to provide feedback on work submitted after the due date.
- No use of laptops or phones in class.
- Absences. Students should report term-time absences using the Course Absence Reporting (CAR) system, accessed through the PennPortal. Students who must miss an assignment or class due to a religious holiday should follow the guidelines from the Penn Provost's Office (<http://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/policy-on-secular-and-religious-holidays>), which includes informing the instructor within the first two weeks of term of such conflicts.
- Students with disabilities. Students with approval from the office of Student Disabilities Services (SDS) should contact me as soon as possible. Students can request accommodations by calling SDS 215.573.9235. The office is located in the Weingarten Learning Resources Center at Stouffer Commons 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.
- Course website. The course website will host course materials (such as lecture notes), be used to post course assignments, and be used to post announcements regarding administrative course matters. Students are responsible for checking the website regularly.
- Other course policies. We will adhere to all department policies (<http://economics.sas.upenn.edu/undergraduate-program/course-information/guidelines/policies>), including those on exam attendance, academic integrity, and prerequisites. In particular, while you are encouraged to discuss course material and collaborate with your peers, each student must submit their own individual assignment. Students are not to write up joint assignments. Please see <http://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity> for more information on academic integrity policies. Students who are found in violation of these policies will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment and be referred to the appropriate disciplinary committee at Penn.