ECON330 ASYMMETRIC INFORMATION & INCENTIVE DESIGN – SPRING 2020

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Course Description and Scope

This course offers undergraduate-level information economics and contract theory. It covers important topics in the field including adverse selection, signaling and screening, and for each topic, we study both a simple model and a more general version to enhance intuition behind each model, while deepening our understanding of it. We will also have discussions of some of the key papers. A partial list can be found below.

Main Textbook

Lecture notes

References

Gibbons *Game Theory for Applied Economists*Salanie *Economics of Contracts*Laffont and Martimort *Theory of Incentives*Krishna *Auction Theory*

Papers

Akerlof (1970) The market for lemons, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* **89**: 488-500 Spence (1973) Job market signaling, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* **87**: 355-374 Rothschild and Stiglitz (1976) Equilibrium in competitive insurance markets, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* **80**: 629-649

Holmstrom (1979) Maral hazard and obervability, *Bell Journal of Economics* **10**: 74-91 Vickrey (1961) Counterspeculation, Auctions, and Competitive Sealed Tenders, *Journal of Finance*. **16**, 8–37.

Proposed Lectures

Adverse Selection
Signaling
Screening
Principal-Agent model
Mechanism Design

Schedule TBA

Course Assessment

Homework and Class participation 30% Midterm exam 30% Final exam 40%

Office hours TBA