ECO 303. Experimental Economics
MWF 1:50 - 2:45, Room: Mahar 102

Instructor: Valentina Kozlova
email: valentina.kozlova@oswego.edu, office: Mahar 450, phone: 3444

Office Hours: MW 3:00 - 4:00, T 1:00 - 3:00 and by appointment


Prerequisites: ECO 101 and ECO 200

Course Description:

“Nearly four hundred years ago, Galileo performed the first recorded laboratory experiment. He set heavy balls on a rolling plank and sent them speeding down to test his theory of acceleration. Since that time, laboratory experiments have been a cornerstone of the scientific method. The principle of science and the test of all knowledge, according to noted theoretical physicist Richard Feynman, is the experiment. “Experiment,” he said, “is the sole judge of scientific ‘truth.’” Increasingly, economists have turned to the experimental model of the physical sciences as a method to understand human behavior.”

Epilogue to Gneezy and Lists’s 2013 book

“Taking a course in experimental economics is a little like going to dinner at a cannibal’s house. Sometimes you will be the diner, sometimes you will be part of the dinner, sometimes both.”

Preface to Bergstrom and Miller’s 1999 book

This course is designed to help students apply economic concepts in a real strategic environment. We will talk about the basic behavioral concepts and their experimental application, learn about experimental design and methodology, and try to create our own experiments.

Grade Policy:

- Quizzes and in class participation 20% There will be several quizzes throughout the semester, some of them unannounced.
- Take home assignments 20% No late submissions will be accepted
- Midterm exam 30% The tentative date for the midterm is March 14
- End of semester project 30% You will be working on the project throughout the entire semester

End of semester project: You will work in groups to design an experiment of your own. You will submit a two-page proposal of your experiment idea by the end of March. We will
have in class presentations of your ideas where you can get feedback from your peers. At the end of semester you will submit a report on the project, including a detailed description of each participant’s role in the project. More instructions with deadlines will be uploaded to Angel.

**Attendance and Participation Policy:** I expect everyone to be prepared, to have read the assigned readings, and to participate in class. Asking questions about anything counts as participation. Attendance is not graded, however it is highly recommended that you attend every class. You are responsible for all the material that is covered in class, and for understanding all the announcements made in class.

**Missed Exam or Quiz Policy:** If you have a documented reason to miss an exam, you have to let me know in advance and get my approval. Students who have missed an exam and have provided an official document presenting the unavoidable reason will retake that exam at another time. Makeup exam may not be the same as the original version. If you do not have a valid excuse, you get a zero for the missed assignment. There are no makeups for missed quizzes, however, a few lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

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**Note:** If after a final exam you get 79.4%, it is a C+ and there is no way to get a B. There will be no extra assignments to raise your grade.

**Academic Honesty:** “Intellectual integrity on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded. For these reasons, any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and is therefore prohibited. Instructors who determine that a student has engaged in an act of intellectual dishonesty may impose an academic penalty, including that of a failing grade for the course on that student.”

**Disability Statement:** If you have a disabling condition which may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) located at 155 Campus Center, phone (315) 312-3358, dss@oswego.edu