Experimental Design and Social Behavior

This course is an introduction to Experimental Design and Social Behavior. You will be reading in a number of different fields. Keep an open mind. The course will be focused on problems of collective choice, collective action, cooperation and social preference. The course will also focus on experimental designs.

Course Requirements:

The course will be run as a seminar. A seminar means that you will be treated as a "junior colleague." Everyone is expected to contribute to discussion. As a consequence, completing the reading prior to each class meeting is mandatory. This will enable you to ask questions of material that is unclear (and some of it will be) and to force the members of the seminar (including the instructor) to keep on the ball.

To help you think carefully about the material, I am requiring that you write, each week, a 2-3 page memorandum covering one of the readings. The memorandum should do 4 things. First, it should outline the main point to the book/article. Second, it should indicate how this book/article fits with the others that were assigned for this week. Third it should detail what is useful or flawed in the experiment. Fourth it should detail any extension you argue is worthwhile. Because we meet on Friday afternoons and I would love to see the memos before class, the memos are due on Thursday at 1:00 pm. The memo should be emailed to me. I will try to comment on your memos prior to class. In order to make this course run smoothly everyone must turn his or her work in on time! Stragglers will be regarded with ill humor.

You will also be required to design an experiment. The design will be reported as a research paper. I expect that you will have a question, you will have reviewed the appropriate literature, you will detail your design, you will invent data for tables and figures that you think are likely to come from your design and you will have a conclusion. The experiment will also be conducted on other members of the class, so this means that you will have all of your materials prepared so as to conduct the experiment. Your paper topic/experiment will be worked out in advance with the instructor.

Books.

The following will be useful to own for this class:


The following can be helpful if you decide you want to work in this arena.

Kagel and Roth. (1995). "The Handbook of Experimental Economics." Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (This is out of date, but a second edition will be coming out in the next year.)

**Grading:**

Grading is straightforward.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Memorandum</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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**Course Outline:**

The following represents a reading list (in progress) for the semester. The management reserves the right to change the menu. I’ll keep things updated on Owlspace, so check it for up-to-date readings. The supplemental readings are for your personal edification. Some might be interesting and I continually add things to the list.

**January 17 (Week 1)**
Introduction.

**January 24 (Week 2)**
Methods 1.


**Suggested:**


**January 31 (Week 3)**

**Methods 2.**


**Suggested:**


**February 7 (Week 4)**

**Methods 3.**


Suggested


**February 14 (Week 5)**

**Voting Experiments and Spatial Committees**


*Suggested:*


February 21 (Week 6)
Priming and Framing


Suggested.

February 28 (Week 7)
Survey Experiments


Suggested:


**March 7 (Week 8)**

**Spring Break**

**March 14 (Week 9)**

**Field Experiments**


*Suggested:*


**March 21 (Week 10)**

**PD and Dictatum**


**Suggested:**


Andrade and Ho. (2008). "Gaming Emotions." University of California, Berkeley


March 28 (Week 11)

Trust


Suggested:


April 4 (Week 12)
Midwest Meeting

April 11 (Week 13)
Public Goods and CPRs


*Suggested:*


April 18 (Week 14)

Neuro/Genetic


Suggested:


**April 25 (Week 15)**

Conclusion