Econ 498 Advanced Topics in Economics

Profs. George-Marios Angeletos and Alessandro Pavan

The course focuses on the role of coordination, information, and expectations in settings of interest to both macro- and micro-economists. Topics include beauty contests, global games, information acquisition, rational inattention, and bounded rationality. After being introduced to the theoretical underpinnings, students will learn how to apply the techniques to topics such as business-cycle fluctuations, bank runs, political change, the social value of information, optimal monetary and fiscal policy, information design, and endogenous uncertainty.

Prerequisites: Micro- and macro-economics at 1st-year PhD level.

Evaluation: Problem sets, plus: either presentation and referee report, or research proposal. (Topic and further details to be discussed with instructors.)

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 1.30-3.30 PM

Academic Integrity

Students in this course are required to comply with the policies found in the booklet, "Academic Integrity at Northwestern University: A Basic Guide". All papers submitted for credit in this course must be submitted electronically unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Your written work may be tested for plagiarized content. For details regarding academic integrity at Northwestern or to download the guide, visit: https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/index.html

Accessibility

Northwestern University is committed to providing the most accessible learning environment as possible for students with disabilities. Should you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers in the academic setting, please contact AccessibleNU to move forward with the university's established accommodation process (e: accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; p: 847-467-5530). If you already have established accommodations with AccessibleNU, please let me know as soon as possible, preferably within the first two weeks of the term, so we can work together to implement your disability accommodations. Disability information, including academic accommodations, is confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

COVID-19 Classroom Expectations

Students, faculty, and staff must comply with University expectations regarding appropriate classroom behavior, including those outlined below and in the <u>COVID-19 Code of Conduct</u>. With respect to classroom procedures, this includes:

- Policies regarding masking and social distancing evolve as the public health situation changes. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with current masking, testing, Symptom Tracking, and social distancing requirements.
- In some classes, masking and/or social distancing may be required as a result of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation for the instructor or a student in the class even when not generally required on campus. In such cases, the instructor will notify the class.
- No food is allowed inside classrooms. Drinks are permitted, but please keep your face covering on and use a straw.
- Faculty may assign seats in some classes to help facilitate contact tracing in the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats.

If a student fails to comply with the <u>COVID-19 Code of Conduct</u> or other University expectations related to COVID-19, the instructor may ask the student to leave the class. The instructor is asked to report the incident to the Office of Community Standards for additional follow-up.

COVID-19 Testing Compliance

To protect the health of our community, Northwestern University requires unvaccinated students who are in on-campus programs to be tested for COVID-19 twice per week.

Students who fail to comply with current or future COVID-19 testing protocols will be referred to the Office of Community standards to face disciplinary action, including escalation up to restriction from campus and suspension.

Guidance on Class Recordings

Portions of this class may be recorded by the instructor for educational purpose and available to the class during the quarter. Your instructor will communicate how you can access the recordings. Portions of the course that contain images, questions or commentary/discussion by students will be edited out of any recordings that are saved beyond the current term.

Class Recording

Unauthorized student recording of classroom or other academic activities (including advising sessions or office hours) is prohibited. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy and state law. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact <u>AccessibleNU</u>. Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the University's <u>Copyright Policy</u>, faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.

Support for Wellness and Mental Health

Northwestern University is committed to supporting the wellness of our students. Student Affairs has multiple resources to support student wellness and mental health. If you are feeling distressed or overwhelmed, please reach out for help. Students can access confidential resources through the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) and the Center for Awareness, Response and Education (CARE). Additional information on all of the resources mentioned above can be found here:

https://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/ https://www.northwestern.edu/religious-life/ https://www.northwestern.edu/care/

Tentative Schedule

Date	Торіс	
3/29	Beauty Contests	GMA
3/30	Beauty Contests	GMA
4/4	Global Games	AP
4/6	Global Games	AP
4/11	Applications to Business Cycles	GMA
4/13	Applications to Business Cycles	GMA
4/18	News, Confidence, Ambiguity	GMA
4/20	News, Confidence, Ambiguity	GMA
4/25	Dynamic Coordination	AP
4/27	Dynamic Coordination	AP
5/2	Information Acquisition	АР
5/4	Information Acquisition	AP
5/9	Rational Inattention, and Optimal Policy	GMA
5/11	Forward Guidance and Bounded Rationality	GMA
5/16	Forward Guidance and Bounded Rationality	GMA + Pooya Molavi
5/18	Simple Models and Biased Forecasts	Pooya Molavi + AP
5/23	Signaling, Information Design and Adversarial Coordination	АР
5/25	Signaling, Information Design and Adversarial Coordination	АР
5/30	No class	
6/1	TBD	GMA/AP

Reading List

We will cover only a subset of the references listed below. The list is meant to provide students with information about related research topics. The required readings are marked with a *.

Introduction to Beauty Contests

- Allen, F., S. Morris, and H. S. Shin (2006), "Beauty Contests and Iterated Expectations" *Review of Financial Studies*, 19(3), 719-752.
- * Angeletos, G.M., and A. Pavan (2007), "Efficient Use of Information and Social Value of Information," *Econometrica*, 75(5), 1103-1142.
- Angeletos, G.M., L. Iovino, and J. La'O (2016), "Real Rigidity, Nominal Rigidity and the Social Value of Information," *American Economic Review*, 106(1), 200-227.
- Angeletos, G.M., and C. Lian (2016), "Incomplete Information in Macroeconomics: Accommodating Frictions in Coordination," *Handbook of Macroeconomics*, Vol. 2.
- Angeletos, G. M., and A. Pavan (2009), "Policy with Dispersed Information", *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 7(1), 11–60.
- Cooper, R. (1999), "Coordination Games: Complementarities and Macroeconomics," Cambridge University Press
- Bergmann, D., T. Heumann, and S. Morris (2015), "Information and Volatility," *Journal of Economic Theory*, 158(B), 427-465.
- Bergmann, D., and S. Morris (2013), "Robust Predictions in Games of Incomplete Information," *Econometrica*, 81(4), 1251–1308.
- Huo, Z. and M. Pedroni Zouain (2020), "A Single-Judge Solution to Beauty Contests," American *Economic Review*, 110(2), 526-568.
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Introduction to Global Games

- Atkeson, A. (2000), "Discussion of Stephen Morris and Hyun Song Shin's "Rethinking Multiple Equilibria in Macroeconomic Modelling"," *NBER Macroeconomics Annual (2000)*.
- Baliga, S., and S. Morris (2002), "Coordination, Spillovers and Cheap-Talk," *Journal of Economic Theory*, 105(2), 450-468.
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- Corsetti, G., A. Dasgupta, S. Morris, and H. S. Shin (2003), "Does One Soros Make a Difference? A Theory of Currency Crises with Large and Small Traders," *The Review of Economic Studies*, 71(1), 87-113.

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- Kim, Y. (1996), "Equilibrium Selection in N-Person Coordination Games," *Games and Economic Behavior*, 15(2), 203-227.
- Milgrom P., and J. Roberts (1990), "Rationalizability, Learning, and Equilibrium in Games with Strategic Complementarities," *Econometrica*, 58(6), 1255-1277.
- Monderer D., and D. Samet (1989), "Approximating Common Knowledge with Common Beliefs," *Games and Economic Behavior*, 1(2), 170-190.
- Monderer D., and D. Samet (1996), "Proximity of information in games with incomplete information," *Mathematics of Operations Research*, 21(3), 707-725.
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- Morris, St., and H.S. Shin (2004). "Coordination risk and the price of debt." *European Economic Review* 48 (1), 133-153.
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- Morris S. (2001), "Faulty Communication: Some Variations on the Electronic Mail Game," Advances in Theoretical Economics, 1(1), 1027.
- Morris S. (2002), "Coordination, Communication and Common Knowledge: A Retrospective on the Electronic-mail Game," Oxford Review of Economic Policy, 18(4), 433-44.
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- Morris S., and H. S. Shin (2000), "Rethinking Multiple Equilibria in Macroeconomic Modeling," NBER Macroeconomic Annual, 15, 139-161.
- * Morris, S., and H. S. Shin (2003), "Global Games Theory and Applications," Advances in Economics and Econometrics (8th World Congress of the Econometric Society), Cambridge University Press.
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- Steiner J., and J. Sakovics (2012), "Who Matters in Coordination Problems," American Economic Review, 102(7), 3439-3461.
- Weinstein, J., and M. Yildiz (2007), "A Structure Theorem for Rationalizability with Applications to Robust Predictions of Refinements," *Econometrica*, 75(2), 365-400.

Applications to Business Cycles

- * Angeletos, G.M., and J. La'O (2010). "Noisy Business Cycles." NBER Macroeconomics Annual 24.1, 319-378.
- Angeletos, G.M., and J. La'O (2012), "Incomplete Information, Higher-Order Beliefs, and Price Inertia," *Journal of Monetary Economics* 56(S), 19-37.

Angeletos, G.M., and J. La'O (2013), "Sentiments," Econometrica 81(2) 319-378.

- * Angeletos, G.M., F. Collard, and H. Dellas (2018), "Quantifying Confidence," *Econometrica* 86(5), 1689-1726.
- * Angeletos, G.M., F. Collard, and H. Dellas (2021), "Business Cycle Anatomy," *American Economic Review 110(10), 3030-3070*.
- * Chahrour, R., Nimark, K. P., & Pitschner, S. (2021), "Sectoral media focus and aggregate fluctuations," *American Economic Review 111(12), 3872-3922*.
- Chahrour, R., and G. Gaballo (2021), "Learning from House Prices: Amplification and Business Fluctuations," *Review of Economic Studies 88(4), 1720-1759*.
- * Flynn, J., and K. Sastry (2021), "Attention Cycles," MIT mimeo.
- Nimark, K. (2008), "Dynamic Pricing and Imperfect Common Knowledge," Journal of Monetary Economics 55(2), 365-382.
- * Lorenzoni, G. (2009), "A Theory of Demand Shocks," American Economic Review 99(5), 2050-2084.
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- * Schaal, E., and Ma. Taschereau-Dumouche (2018), "Coordinating Business Cycles," CREI/UPF/Cornell University mimeo.
- Townsend, R. (1983), "Forecasting the Forecasts of Others," Journal of Political Economy 91, 546-588.
- * Woodford, M. (2003a), "Imperfect Common Knowledge and the Effects of Monetary Policy," in P. Aghion, R. Frydman, J. Stiglitz, and M. Woodford, eds., Knowledge, Information, and Expectations in Modern Macroeconomics: In Honor of Edmund S. Phelps, Princeton University Press.

Survey and Other Evidence

- * Angeletos, G.M., Z. Huo and K. Sastry (2020), "Imperfect Macroeconomic Expectations: Evidence and Theory," NBER Macroeconomics Annual.
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- Coibion, O., Y. Gorodnichenko, and S. Kumar (2015). "How Do Firms Form Their Expectations? New Survey Evidence." *NBER Working Paper*
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- * Coibion, O., Y. Gorodnichenko, S. Kumar., and M. Pedemonte (2019). "Inflation Expectations as a Policy Tool?," Mimeo.
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- Gap, Z., M. Sockinz, and W. Xiong (2020), "Learning about the Neighborhood," mimeo.
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Dynamic Coordination

- Basak, D., Zhou, Z., (2019), "Diffusing coordination risk," American Economic Review 110(1), 271-297.
- * Abreu D., and M. Brunnermeier (2003), "Bubbles and Crashes," Econometrica, 71(1), 173-204.
- * Angeletos G. M., C. Hellwig, and A. Pavan (2007), "Dynamic Global Games of Regime Change: Multiplicity, Learning and Timing of Attacks," *Econometrica*, 75(3), 711-756.
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- * Frankel, D., and A. Pauzner (2000), "Resolving Indeterminacy in Dynamic Settings: The Role of Shocks," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115(1), 283-304.
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Information Acquisition and Rational Inattention

- * Angeletos, G.M. and K. Sastry (2021), "Inattentive Economies," mimeo, MIT.
- * Angeletos, G.M., and J. La'O (2020), "Optimal Monetary Policy with Informational Frictions," Journal of Political Economy 128(3), 1027-1064.
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- Denti, T. (2022), "Unrestricted Information Acquisition," Cornell University mimeo.
- * Hebert, B. and J. La'O (2020), "Information Acquisition, Efficiency, and Non-Fundamental Volatility," mimeo Columbia/Stanford University.
- Hellwig, C., and L. Veldkamp (2009), "Knowing What Others Know: Coordination Motives in Information Acquisition," *Review of Economic Studies*, 76(1), 223-251.

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- Veldkamp, L. (2006), "Media Frenzies in Markets for Financial Information," American Economic Review 96(3), 577-601.
- * Yang, M. (2015) "Coordination with Flexible Information Acquisition," *Journal of Economic Theory*, 158, 721-738.

Information Revelation, Information Design, Adversarial Coordination (with policy applications)

- * Angeletos G. M., C. Hellwig, and A. Pavan (2006), "Signaling in a Global Game: Coordination and Policy Traps," *Journal of Political Economy*, 114(3), 452-484.
- Angeletos G. M., and A. Pavan (2013), "Selection-free Predictions in Global Game with Endogenous Information and Multiple Equilibria," *Theoretical Economics*, 8(3), 883-938.
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- * Li, F., Yangbo, S., Zhao, M., (2020), "Global manipulation by local obfuscation," WP, UNC

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Forward Guidance, Bounded Rationality

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- Venkateswaran, V.. (2014). "Heterogeneous Information and Labor Market Fluctuations." NYU mimeo .
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