



Titre cours

Course title - Intitulé du cours	Microeconomics 2
Level / Semester - Niveau /semestre	Master 2 / S2
School – Composante	École d'Économie de Toulouse
Teacher - Enseignant responsable	David Martimort & Patrick Rey
Other teacher(s) - Autre(s) enseignant(s)	
Lecture Hours - Volume Horaire CM	36
TA Hours - Volume horaire TD	15
TP Hours - Volume horaire TP	0
Course Language - Langue du cours	English
TA and/or TP Language - Langue des TD et/ou	English
ТР	

Teaching staff contacts - Coordonnées de l'équipe pédagogique :

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Course's Objectives - Objectifs du cours :

This course focuses on the economics of information and incentives. It covers key notions and principles in situations of adverse selection and moral hazard, including mechanism design and its applications to auction theory.

Prerequisites - Pré requis :

Microeconomics 1; Game theory

Practical information about the sessions - Modalités pratiques de gestion du cours :

Two 1.5h lectures per week for 12 weeks; One tutorial per week for 10 weeks.

Lecture notes are available.

Grading system – Modalités d'évaluation :

Mid-term exam and Final exam. The final grade is given by 0.30 x max {Mid-term,Final} + 0.70 x Final.

<u>Outline – Plan :</u>

PART I (Patrick Rey)

Textbooks:

. Bolton, P., and M. Dewatripont (2005), Contract Theory, *MIT Press*.

. Laffont, J.J. (1991), The Economics of Uncertainty and Information, *MIT Press*, Cambridge.

. Laffont, J.J., and D. Martimort (2002), The Theory of Incentives: The Principal Agent Model, *Princeton University Press*.

. Mas-Colell, A., M.D. Whinston and J. Green (1995), Microeconomic Theory, *Oxford University Press*, New York and Oxford.

Chapter 1: Information economics

- I. Introduction
- II. Asymmetric information and market failures
 - 1. Lemons problem
 - 2. Screening
 - 3. Screening versus signaling
 - 4. Market disequilibrium
- III. Roadmap

Chapter 2: Adverse selection

- I. Introduction
- II. Simple example
 - 1. Price discrimination
 - 2. Complete information
 - 3. Incomplete information
- III. A more general analysis
 - 1. Framework
 - 2. Implementation
 - 3. Optimization
 - 4. Examples
- IV. Variations
 - 1. Multiple agents
 - 2. Noisy observation
 - 3. Interim renegotiation
 - 4. Countervailing incentives
 - 5. Stochastic contracts
 - 6. Dynamics

Chapter 3: Moral hazard

I. Introduction

- 1. Efficiency versus risk-sharing
- 2. Efficiency versus informational rent
- *II.* The role of statistical inference
 - 1. The inference problem
 - 2. Full inference
 - 3. Limited inference
 - 4. Valuable signals
- III. Effort levels
 - 1. A simple example
 - 2. Risk-sharing, incentives and participation constraint
 - 3. Multi-tasking
- IV. Applications
 - 1. Partial insurance
 - 2. Efficiency wage
 - 3. Credit rationing
 - 4. Group lending
 - 5. Moral hazard in teams
 - 6. Career concerns
 - 7. Commitment

PART II (David Martimort)

Textbook: Laffont, J.J., and D. Martimort (2002), The Theory of Incentives: The Principal Agent Model, *Princeton University Press*.

1. Mechanism Design: Basics

- 1.1 A Brief History of Economic Thought on the Theory of Incentives
- 1.2 Collective decision making. Arrow's and Gibbard-Sattherwaite's Theorems
- 1.3 A bare-bone model. Preferences, information structures
- 1.4 The Revelation Principle
 - 1.4.1 Dominant strategy implementation, Bayesian-Nash implementation, Nash implementation
 - 1.4.2 Full versus partial implementation

2. Non-Market Institution: The Public Good Problem

2.1 Dominant implementation

A fundamental Lemma. Vickrey-Clarke-Groves mechanisms, characterization and examples. A first impossibility theorem.

- 2.2 Bayesian implementation
 - A fundamental Lemma (again). D'Aspremont-Gerard-Varet mechanisms,

characterization. A first possibility theorem and a second impossibility theorem

2.3 Second-best analysis

The fundamental incentive-feasibility condition. The free-riding problem in large economies. The second-best solution.

- 2.4 Interim efficiency
- 2.5 Applications

Climate agreements. The formation of interest groups.

3. Market institutions 1: The Coase Theorem under Asymmetric Information

- 3.1 The Coase Theorem under complete information: A reminder
- 3.2 The Myerson-Satterthwaite impossibility theorem Second-best solution. Implementation. Broker-mediated trade
- 3.3 Dominant strategy trading mechanisms
- 3.4 Dissolving a partnership. A possibility theorem
- 3.5 The relationship between Clarke mechanisms and efficiency
- 3.6 Bargaining and non-verifiable information

4. Market institutions 2: Auctions

- 4.1 Preferences. Information structures
- 4.2 Various auction formatsFirst-price, second price, all-pay auctions, multi-unit auctions, supply functions.
- 4.3 The Revenue Equivalence. Dominant and Bayesian implementation
- 4.4 Auctions with externalities
- 4.5 Collusion rings
- 4.6 Correlated information / Interdependent values Efficiency or inefficiency?
- 4.7 Robust mechanism design

5. Hierarchies

- 5.1 Set-up. Information structures
- 5.2 Loss of control
- 5.3 Vertical collusion
- 5.4 Horizontal collusion

Bibliography/references - Bibliographie/références :

Part I

Chapter 1: Information economics

Textbook: Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, Chap. 13.

Articles:

. Akerlof, G. (1970), "The market for Lemons: Quality uncertainty and the market mechanism," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 89:488-500.

. Attar, A., Th. Mariotti and F. Salanié (2011), "Nonexclusive Competition in the Market for Lemons," *Econometrica*, 79(6):1869-1918.

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. Miyazaki, H. (1977), "The rat race and internal labor markets," Bell Journal of Economics, 8:394-418.

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. Rothschild, M., and J. E. Stiglitz (1976), "Equilibrium in Competitive Insurance Markets," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 90:629-649.

. Spence, M. (1973), "Job Market Signalling," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 87:355-374.

. Wilson, C. (1977), "A Model of Insurance Markets with Incomplete Information," Journal of Economic Theory, 16:167-207.

. Wilson, C. (1980), "The Nature of Equilibrium in Markets with Adverse Selection," Bell Journal of Economics, 11:108-130.

Chapter 2: Adverse selection

Textbooks: Laffont 1991, Chap. 10; Laffont and Martimort Chap. 2-3; Bolton and Dewatripont, Chap. 2; Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, Chap. 13-14.

General References:

. Baron, D. (1989), "Design of Regulatory Mechanisms and Institutions," Chapter 24, Handbook of Industrial Organization, R. Schmalensee and R. Willig eds, North Holland.

. Caillaud, B., R. Guesnerie, P. Rey, and J. Tirole (1988), "Government Intervention in Production and Incentives Theory: A Review of Recent Contributions," Rand Journal of Economics, Spring 19: 1-26.

. Hart, O., and B. Holmstrom (1987), "The Theory of Contracts," in Advances in Economic Theory, Fifth World Congress, T. Bewley ed., Cambridge University Press.

. Laffont, J.J., and J. Tirole (1993), A Theory of Incentives in Procurement and Incentives, MIT Press.

Articles:

. Baron, D., and R. Myerson (1982), "Regulating a Monopolist with Unknown Costs," Econometrica, 50: 911-930.

. Bester, H., and R. Strausz (2001), "Contracting with Imperfect Commitment and the Revelation Principle: The Single Agent Case," Econometrica, 69: 1077–1098.

. Chiappori, P.-A., I. Macho, P. Rey and B. Salanié (1994), "Repeated moral hazard: The role of memory, commitment, and the access to credit markets," European Economic Review, 38(8): 1527-1553.

. Guesnerie, G., and J.-J. Laffont (1984), "A Complete Solution of Principal-Agent Problems with an Application to the Control of a Self-Managed Firm," Journal of Public Economics, 25: 329-369.

. Maskin, E., and J. Riley (1984), "Monopoly with Incomplete Information," Rand Journal of Economics, 15: 171-196.

. Mussa, M., and S. Rosen (1978), "Monopoly and Product Quality," Journal of Economic Theory, 18: 301-317.

Chapter 3: Moral hazard

Textbooks: Laffont 1991, Chapter 11; Laffont and Martimort, Chapters 4-5; Bolton and Dewatripont, Ch. 4; Mas-Colell, Whinston and Green, Ch. 14.

General References:

. Baron, D. (1989), "Design of Regulatory Mechanisms and Institutions," Chapter 24, Handbook of Industrial Organization, R. Schmalensee and R. Willig eds., North Holland.

. Hart, O., and B. Holmstrom (1987), "The Theory of Contracts," in Advances in Economic Theory, Fifth World Congress, T. Bewley ed., Cambridge University Press.

Articles:

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Part II

1. Mechanism Design: Basics

1.1 A Brief History of Economic Thought on the Theory of Incentives

Arrow, K. (1951). Social Choice and Individual Values, Wiley and Sons.

- Bowen, H (1943). The Interpretation of Voting in the Allocations of Economic Resources. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 58: 27-48.
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Tiebout, C. (1956). A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures. *The Journal of Political Economy*, 64; 416-424.

Vickrey, W. (1961). Counterspeculation, Auctions, and Competitive Sealed Tenders. *The Journal of Finance*, 16: 8-37.

- 1.2 A bare-bone model. Preferences, information structures
- 1.3 The Revelation Principle
 - 1.3.1 Dominant strategy implementation, Bayesian-Nash implementation, Nash implementation
- Dasgupta, P., P. Hammond, P. and E. Maskin (1979). The Implementation of Social Choice Rules: Some General Results on Incentive Compatibility. *The Review of Economic Studies,* 46: 185-216.
- Myerson, R. (1979). Incentive Compatibility and the Bargaining Problem. *Econometrica*, 47: 61-73.
- Myerson, R. (1982). Optimal Coordination Mechanisms in Generalized Principal-Agent Problems. *Journal of Mathematical Economics*, 10: 67-81.

1.3.2 Full versus partial implementation

- Demski, J. and D. Sappington (1984). Optimal Incentive Contracts with Multiple Agents. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 33: 152-171.
- Jackson, M. (1991). Bayesian Implementation, Econometrica, 59: 461-477.
- Maskin, E. (1999). Nash Equilibrium and Welfare Optimality. *The Review of Eco- nomic Studies*, 66: 23-38.
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- Moore, J. and R. Repullo (1990). Nash Implementation: A Full Characterization. *Econometrica*, 58: 1083-1099.
- Mookherjee, D. and S. Reichelstein (1990). Implementation via Augmented Revelation Mechanisms. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 57: 453-475.

2. Non-Market Institution: The Public Good Problem

2.1 Dominant implementation

Clarke, E. (1971). Multipart Pricing of Public Goods. Public Choice, 2: 19-33.

- Green, J. and J.J. Laffont. (1977). Characterization of Satisfactory Mechanisms for the Revelation of Preferences for Public Goods, *Econometrica*, 45: 427-438.
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Kuzmics, C. and J. Steg (2017). On Public Good Provision Mechanisms with Domi- nant Strategies and Balanced Budget, *Journal of Economic Theory*, 170: 56-69.

Laffont, J. J. and E. Maskin (1980). A Differential Approach to Dominant Strategy Mechanisms,

Econometrica, 48: 1507-1520.

2.2 Bayesian implementation

- d'Aspremont, C. and L-.A. GÃ Q rard-Varet (1979). Incentives and Incomplete Information, *Journal of Public Economics*, 11: 25-45.
- Laffont, J.J. and E. Maskin (1979). A Differential Approach to Expected Utility Maximizing Mechanisms, in *Aggregation and Revelation of Preferences*, ed. J.J. Laffont, 289-308. North-Holland.

2.3 Second-best analysis

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- Hellwig, M. (2003). Public-Good Provision With Many Participants, *The Review of Economic Studies*, 70: 589-614.
- Mailath, G. and A. Postlewaite (1990). Asymmetric Information Bargaining Pro- blems with Many Agents. *The Review of Economic Studies*, 57: 351-367.

2.4 Interim efficiency

- Holmström, Bengt, and Roger Myerson (1983). "Efficient and Durable Decision Rules with Incomplete Information," *Econometrica*, 51: 1799-1819.
- Ledyard, J. and T. Palfrey (1999). A Characterization of Interim Efficiency with Public Goods, *Econometrica*, 67: 435-448.

2.5 Applications

- Lefébvre, P and D. Martimort (2020), *"When Olson Meets Dahl..."* From Inefficient Group Formation to Inefficient Political Process, *The Journal of Politics*, 82, 1026-1043.
- Martimort, D. and W. Sand-Zantman (2016). A Mechanism Design Approach to Climate-Change Agreements, *Journal of European Economic Association*, 14: 669-718.
- Rob, R. (1989). Pollution Claim Settlements under Private Information, *Journal of Economic Theory*, 47: 307-333.

3. Market institutions 1: The Coase Theorem under Asymmetric Information

- 3.1 The Coase Theorem under complete information: A reminder
- 3.2 The Myerson-Satterthwaite impossibility theorem
- Chatterjee, K. and W. Samuelson (1983). Bargaining under Incomplete Information, *Operations Research* 31: 835-851.
- McKelvey, R. and T. Page, T. (2002). Status Quo Bias in Bargaining: An Extension of the Myerson-Satterthwaite Theorem with An application to the Coase Theorem. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 107:336-355.

- Myerson, R. and M. Satterthwaite (1983). Efficient Mechanisms for Bilateral Trading. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 29: 265-281.
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 - 3.3 Dominant strategy trading mechanisms
- Hagerty, K. and W. Rogerson (1987). Robust trading mechanisms. Journal of Eco- nomic Theory, 42(1), 94-107.
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 - 3.4 Dissolving a partnership. A possibility theorem
- Cramton, P., R. Gibbons and P. Klemperer (1987). Dissolving a Partnership Effi- ciently, *Econometrica*, 55: 615-632.
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- 3.1 The relationship between Clarke mechanisms and efficiency
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- 3.1 Bargaining and non-verifiable information
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- Che, Y. K. and T. Chung (1999). Contract Damages and Cooperative Investments. *The RAND Journal of Economics*, 30: 84-105.
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4. Market institutions 2: Auctions

- 4.1 Preferences. Information structures
- 4.2 Various auction formats
- Bernheim, B. and M. Whinston, (1986). Menu Auctions, Resource Allocation, and Economic Influence,' *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 101: 1-31.
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- 4.3 The Revenue Equivalence. Dominant and Bayesian implementation
- Mookherjee, D. and S. Reichelstein(1992). Dominant Strategy Implementation of Bayesian Incentive Compatible Allocation Rules. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 56:

378-399.

- 4.4 Auctions with externalities
- Jehiel, P. and B. Moldovanu (2000). Auctions with Downstream Interaction Among Buyers, *The RAND Journal of Economics*, 31: 768-791.
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4.5 Collusion rings

- Che, Y. K. and J. Kim (2009). Optimal Collusion-Proof Auctions, *Journal of Eco- nomic Theory*, 144; 565-603.
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- 4.6 Correlated information / Interdependent values
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- 4.7 Robust mechanism design
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- Wilson, R. (1987). Game-Theoretic Analyses of Trading Processes. Advances in Economic

Theory: Fifth World Congress, ed. by T. Bewley. Cambridge University Press, Chap. 2, 33-70.

5. Hierarchies

5.1 Set-up. Information structures

- 5.2 Loss of control
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5.3 Vertical collusion

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5.4 Horizontal collusion

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- Che, Y. K. and J. Kim (2006). Robustly Collusion-Proof Implementation, *Econometrica*, 74: 1063-1107.
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