

ECON 681

Contract Theory

Weekly readings

- All students must read the paper they are instructed to read. If you do not read the paper in advance, you will not be able to understand the course material.
- Reading consists at least in (i) the abstract and the introduction, (ii) the model section, (iii) the section(s) with the main results (you can deduce them from (i)). After reading, think about criticisms/questions/extensions.
- One or two students will be asked to prepare a short presentation.

Organization of the session

- We will start with your short presentations.
- We will then discuss the paper together
- We will build a general theory of the topic

Guidelines for short presentation

It must not exceed 10 to 15 minutes. Simply give a talk about the following (do not use transparencies necessary, at most the blackboard if it helps you)

1- Topic & framework

2- Model: main ingredients

3- Results: short description of the main results

Short presentations are meant to develop the following skills: (i) ability to understand a research article (this may take time for theory paper), (ii) ability to summarize it and keep a simple message, (iii) ability to communicate about a piece of fundamental research.

Discussion

They will be based on your input. This is why it is important that you all read the paper.

Discussions are meant to develop several skills: (i) assess the merit of an article, (ii) think about research ideas to develop new theories, (iii) think about the tractability of models.