The course will offer a broad survey of selected topics in Empirical Industrial Organization. This course is intended for Ph.D. students in Economics. Objectives of the course include helping students as they are formulating thesis topics, and providing students with the tools to critically analyze economic research. It is an advanced level course and knowledge of game theory, calculus, microeconomics and econometrics is required.

Textbooks

There are no required texts.

Texts for Reference


(We will make use of some chapters from this book. You do not have to buy this book)

As an additional reading, you may find *The Theory of Industrial Organization*, Jean Tirole (MIT Press, 1988) and ‘Industrial Market Structure and Economic Performance’, by Scherer & Ross, helpful. The difficulty level in Scherer and Ross is much lower than Tirole and hence is good introductory reading.

Course Requirements

There will be presentations in class of assigned papers (40%), referee reports and presentations of individually chosen papers (40%), and class participation (20%). The presentations will be power point presentations and you will be graded on your slides, oral presentation and a summary of the paper.

In view of the limited class time and amount of material to be covered, students will be expected to undertake a substantial amount of work independently.
Readings denoted by “o” are not required for this course, but are recommended for students who want to further their knowledge of a particular subject in industrial organization. Others readings may be added.

Disability Information
If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and if you wish to request a reasonable accommodation for this class please see me immediately. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not provided retroactively.

Academic Honesty
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the university. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.

Course Outline of Topics (o indicates supplementary reading)

I  Tests of Price Discrimination


- Becker, Gary S (1971) *The Economics of Discrimination*

II  Determining Market Conduct Parameters


Student Presentation on Corts  
Student Presentation on Genesove and Mullin


### III  Introduction to Structural Modeling


Student presentation on Chevalier Kashyap and Rossi  
Student presentation on Nevo and Hatzitaskos
IV Structural Models of Product Differentiation


Student presentation on Berry, Levinsohn and Pakes


V Empirical Testing with Auction Data
OUCS Auctions


VI Traditional Topics in Empirical IO

Structure Conduct Performance


**Measuring Monopoly Power**


**Firm Size**


**The Sutton Approach**


Student presentation on Cabral
Student Presentation on Nickell

**VII New Papers in Empirical IO**

Referee reports and 10-15 minute individual presentations on papers to be assigned