ECON 5180-001
Industrial Organization and Public Policy
Spring 2013

Instructor: Dr. Ellen Sewell
Office: 244C Friday
Office Hours: M,W 1:30-3:30; or by appointment
Phone: 687-7611

Email: esewell@uncc.edu Please include "student question" as the subject to ensure a prompt reply. Students are responsible for monitoring their official university email for correspondence related to the course.

Course Description: An examination of monopolistic competition, oligopoly, and monopoly and questions of public policy in dealing with problems created by industrial concentration.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing.


Web site: The instructor's website will include class materials, practice questions and other course information: www.belkcollege.uncc.edu/esewell

Course Objectives: The objective of this course is to examine the relationships among industrial structure, strategic behavior of firms and performance of various industries. Policy issues concerning firm behavior and industrial performance will also be discussed.

Paper: A focus of the course will be an in-depth paper of approximately 15 text pages in length (double spaced with standard margins and font size). The papers must include a complete bibliography. Papers will extend and apply components of the basic course material. The paper will analyze the structure of a chosen industry, discuss an aspect of firm conduct or address a policy issue. It is required that students discuss their proposed paper topics with the instructor prior to the first test and meet with the instructor to discuss the progress of the paper at least two weeks before the due date. Graduate students will be expected to present their work to the class in an informal setting (approximately 20 minutes).

Additional Graduate Readings: Supplemental readings will be assigned for students registered in ECON 5180 and will be listed on the instructor’s website.

Grades: Three tests will determine 70% of the course grade. The first test will determine 20% with the following two tests each determining 25%. The paper and presentation will determine the remaining 30%. Tests will include all of the questions contained on the ECON 4180 tests plus at least one question addressing the additional graduate readings.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

January 9  Introduction to Industrial Organization  Chapter 1
January 14-16  The Firm and Its Costs  Chapter 2
January 21  Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day-no classes
January 23-28  Competition and Monopoly  Chapter 3
January 30  Monopolistic Competition  Pages 428-436
February 4-6  Market Structure  Chapter 4
February 11  TEST ONE
February 13  Review of Test
February 18-20  Monopoly Practices  Chapter 5
February 25  Empirical Industrial Organization  Chapter 6
February 27  Game Theory: A Framework for Understanding Oligopolistic Behavior  Chapter 7
March 4-9  Spring Break (no class)
March 11-13  The Development of Oligopoly Theory  Chapter 8 + handouts
March 18  Collusion: The Great Prisoner's Dilemma  Chapter 9
March 20  Cartels in Action  Chapter 10
March 25-27  Entry and Pricing to Deter Entry  Chapter 11
April 1  TEST TWO
April 3  Review of Test Two
April 8-10  Entry and Non-pricing Strategies to Deter Entry  Chapter 12
April 15  Product Differentiation and Advertising  Chapter 13
April 17  Price Discrimination  Chapter 16
April 22  TEST THREE
April 24  Review of Test Three
Students have the responsibility to know and observe the *UNC Charlotte Code of Academic Integrity*. This *Code* forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student’s work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the *Code* can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the *Code* can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.