



Behavioral Economics and Psychology

PSYC 2750-910 and PPE 3003-910

Summer Session I 2024

Mondays and Wednesdays 8:30 AM to 12:20 PM

Class will be held on Zoom at <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/9276613867>

Canvas Page: <https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1779546>


Instructor: Ibraheem Catovic, PhD

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Office Hours: By Appointment <https://upenn.zoom.us/j/9276613867>

Course Description: Our understanding of markets, governments, and societies rests on our understanding of choice behavior, and the psychological forces that govern it. This course will introduce you to the study of choice, and will examine in detail what we know about how people make choices, and how we can influence these choices. It will utilize insights from psychology and economics, and will apply these insights to domains including risky decision making, intertemporal decision making, and social decision making.

Materials: There is **NO TEXTBOOK**. Lectures will be tied to slides. Slides will use content from articles, books, multimedia, etc. Any required readings outside of slides will be explicitly noted during the semester.

Canvas: I will be using Canvas to post material and announcements. Log into Canvas and go to Account => Notifications, and in the pulldown menu "Settings for", select my course, check "Enable Notifications..." and set "Announcement" to Notify immediately 



Grade Composition

- 1. Exams (60%):** There will be a midterm and a **non-cumulative** final. For each student, the higher grade will account for **40%** of the course grade, and the lower will be **20%**.
- 2. Participation (40%):** During class, I will ask questions and run some experiments using [Poll Everywhere](#). This is **NOT** simply an attendance requirement. It is meant to motivate engagement with the material. Some lectures may have one poll, while others may have a dozen. I will use my judgment in determining participation points based on responses.

Poll Everywhere Registration: Log into [Poll Everywhere](#) using your Penn email address in the format "PennKey@upenn.edu". **Remove any school affiliation from the email domain.** Click "Next". Click "Login via University of Pennsylvania" and log in with your PennKey. Navigate to my personal link pollev.com/icatovic and click "Register".

Grade Determination: There are no university or department-mandated curves. I will determine final grades at my own discretion.

How to Ace this Course: Lecture attendance (both physical and mental) is critical. There will be slides for each lecture. I may also assign homework or critical thinking questions (**not for submission or grading**). You should ensure you understand the material on the slides and utilize assigned work as a test of your knowledge. If you are struggling with any concepts or assigned work, you may contact me or the TAs. I am highly responsive to student inquiries. You may also form study groups or seek tutoring help.

Important Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday, May 29, 2024	First Class
Monday, June 17, 2024	EXAM 1
Wednesday, July 3, 2024	EXAM 2



Student Services (Thanks to Dr. Caroline Connoly for assembling these)

Code of Academic Integrity

You must familiarize yourself with the Code of Academic Integrity in the University of Pennsylvania. It is your responsibility to ensure your behavior does not violate this code. You must observe the policies regarding various forms of academic dishonesty. The following statement about academic dishonesty has been provided by the University of Pennsylvania, "Activities that have the effect or intention of interfering with education, pursuit of knowledge, or fair evaluation of a student's performance are prohibited." Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may be handled by the Office of Student Conduct. More information is available here: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>

You are not permitted to use ChatGPT (or similar tools) for your coursework for this class. Using such tools will be considered a violation of Penn's [Code of Academic Integrity](#), and suspected use will be reported to the Center for Community Standards & Accountability. Please contact me if you have any questions about this policy.

Student Financial Services

Any student may consult with Student Financial Services to find out what support they are eligible to receive to cover course costs or other items that ensure their health, safety, and secure learning environment.

Weingarten Center: (includes [Student Disability Services](#))

The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Hamilton Village at 220 S. 40th Street, Suite 260. Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

- [Learning consultations](#) which focus on academic skills and strategies such as test taking to time management.
- [Academic Tutoring](#) which give students subject-specific peer tutoring services to supplement support from faculty, TAs, and instructors.
- [Disability Services](#) which ensure equal access to all Penn programs to students with documented disabilities.

Disability Services offers drop-in hours Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Weingarten Center ([directions](#)). Students can stop by and speak with a graduate assistant to address general questions about Disability Services, including how to start the registration process, how to complete a Semester Request, and assistance with scheduling tests.

The Marks Family Writing Center

Provides expert help in writing for undergraduate students. Undergraduate students are able to schedule face-to-face or online appointments. All appointments must be scheduled ahead of time. Please email tutorhelp@writing.upenn.edu for assistance.

HELP Line

This is a 24-hour-a-day phone number for members of the Penn community who are seeking time sensitive help in navigating Penn's resources for health and wellness. Any member of the Penn community can utilize this service by calling 215-898-HELP. Calls will be answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by Division of Public Safety professionals trained in mental health referrals by staff from Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS).

Students who are dealing with the complex emotional challenges of university life can use the HELP Line to receive information and referrals to the many health and wellness resources at Penn, including CAPS, Student Health Service,



Student Intervention Services, Public Safety, and others. They may also call on behalf of a friend or acquaintance. If you or someone you know needs help, please call the HELP Line at 215-898-HELP.

<https://www.publicsafety.upenn.edu/announcing-the-898-help-line/>

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

College can be challenging. Penn has a Counseling and Psychological Services program (CAPS). CAPS offers confidential free professional mental health services. The goal is to assist students in their adjustment to university life and help them take full advantage of the academic and social environment at Penn. Students can learn to manage personal problems and situational crises effectively, learn strategies to cope with academic stress, and develop self awareness, personal responsibility, and skills for life-long learning.

- Online scheduling: <https://uapps.vpul.upenn.edu/capsform/>
- Phone: 215-898-7021,
- Email: caps@pobox.upenn.edu (please do not email for an appointment)
- Website: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/caps/>
- Address: 3624 Market Street, First Floor West, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2615

If you or someone you know is experiencing an emergency that cannot wait until the next day office hours, please call the main number (215-898-7021) and press # 1.

If you are uncomfortable reaching out to CAPS directly, I am happy to contact them on your behalf. In addition, there are various a range of other support resources on campus such as resident advisers, faculty members living on campus, academic advisers, and undergraduate advisers in each program of study. The Office of the Chaplain is also helpful.

CaseNet

CaseNet is an academic support team in the College Office charged with providing a centralized response to all College students in academic difficulty (www.college.upenn.edu/casenet). CaseNet can be reached at casenet@groups.sas.upenn.edu or by calling 215-898-6341.

Cases referred to CaseNet include:

- Students who are ill or otherwise prevented from attending class for more than five days.
- Students in serious academic difficulty.
- Students who are hospitalized or who have other kinds of acute problems (victim of crime, etc.) that interrupt their normal schedule.
- Students who are experiencing personal or family concerns significant enough to interfere with their academic work or to impinge on those around them, including a death in the family.

Reach-A-Peer Helpline

The Reach-A-Peer Helpline is a peer help line established in 1996 to provide peer support, information, and referrals to any and all students of the University of Pennsylvania. The service is open to all students who wish to share a problem, are in need of information, or just want to talk to someone about anything on their mind.

RAPLine offers two services:

- Helpline: Our phone line is available every night while classes are in session (except holidays) from 9 pm to 1 am. Reach us at 215-573-2727. Don't be shy!
- Texting: Our text service is available 24/7. Text us anytime at 215-515-7332 and one of our supporters will response as soon as possible