

The Art Of Strategy (Honors)

IDH 2930, Class #26756

Class Periods: Thursdays, Period 7, 1:55 – 2:45 PM

Location: Classroom location: Little 117

Academic Term: Fall 2025

Peer Instructor:

Benjamin Shapiro

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Office Hours: By appointment

Instructor:

Dr. John Streese

Email: jstreese@ufl.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

A Game Theorist's Guide to Success in Business and Life by Avinash K. Dixit and Barry J. Nalebuff entertainingly combines the theory behind various tactical games with their practicality in real life scenarios. The authors stress how every interaction, no matter how insignificant, can be won or lost through calculated decision making. Engaging examples of game theory in action are presented in a wide range of fields including sports, elections, test taking, and even the gameshow Survivor.

Now for the fun part: utilizing the strategies discussed in the book in a competitive classroom environment! Each class will begin with a discussion of the corresponding week's reading. Then, the class will be presented with a game theory scenario which will challenge everyone's cooperative and critical thinking abilities. Competitive spirits will be fostered, as points will be awarded based on individual performances each week. Whoever has the most points by the end of the semester will win a small prize!

Credit Hours: 1

Course Objectives

As part of the learning entailed in this course:

- Students will acquire, understand, and discuss game theory strategies that are applicable to day-to-day life.
- Students will test the effectiveness of game theory strategies through in class activities.
- Students will reflect on personal strategies they used and develop new ones with increased effectiveness.

Required Textbooks and Software

- Title: The Art of Strategy: A Game Theorist's Guide to Success in Business and Life
 - Authors: Avinash K. Dixit and Barry J. Nalebuff

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Reading (should be done prior to the weekly class)	Assignments Due
1	8/21	Introduction to the course (no reading due)	
2	8/28	Discuss Chapter 1 (pages 3-31)	Reflection 1
3	9/4	Discuss Chapter 2 (pages 32-63)	Reflection 2
4	9/11	Discuss Chapter 3 (pages 64-101)	Reflection 3
5	9/18	Discuss Chapter 4 (pages 102-119)	Reflection 4
6	9/25	Discuss Chapter 4 (pages 119-138)	Reflection 5
7	10/2	Discuss Chapter 5 (pages 141-154)	Reflection 6
8	10/9	Discuss Chapter 6 (pages 154-172)	Reflection 7
9	10/16	Discuss Chapter 6 (pages 173-200)	Reflection 8
10	10/23	Discuss Chapter 8 (pages 239-269)	Reflection 9
11	10/30	Discuss Chapter 9 (pages 270-300)	Reflection 10

12	11/6	Discuss Chapter 10 (pages 301-334)	Reflection 11
13	11/13	N/A	Reflection 12
14	11/20	N/A	Reflection 13

Note: Class schedule is subject to change.

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

In addition, students should reach out to me (Ben) about planned absences (sickness, religious reasons, athletic events, etc.) as soon as possible. Class activities will require substantial class attendance, so it will be helpful to know about future absences.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Participation	50%
Reflections	50%

Participation: 50% of Final Grade

The participation grade will be based on attendance, participation in class discussions, and participation in the game theory class activities. The maximum participation score is 100 points. After one unexcused absence (see attendance policy), the participation score will be dropped by 10 points for each subsequent unexcused absence.

Reflections: 50% of Final Grade

The reflection grade will be based on the weekly reflections done throughout the course. A maximum of 10 points will be awarded for each reflection, and the total reflection grade will be your average reflection grade (dropping your lowest score).

Grading Policy

Grades will be rounded up to the nearest tenth and correspond to the following grading scale:

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
90.0 - 100.0	A	4.00
87.0 - 89.9	A-	3.67
84.0 - 86.9	B+	3.33
81.0 - 83.9	B	3.00
78.0 - 80.9	B-	2.67
75.0 - 79.9	C+	2.33
72.0 - 74.9	C	2.00
69.0 - 71.9	C-	1.67
66.0 - 68.9	D+	1.33
63.0 - 65.9	D	1.00
60.0 - 62.9	D-	0.67
0 - 59.9	E	0.00

Note: Grade boundaries may be lowered, but not raised, by my discretion.

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards your Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see: <http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Academic Resources

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519.

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.