



**Instructor:** Kerry Tan  
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**Office Hours:** MW 2:00pm - 3:00pm, or by appointment

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**Course Website:** <http://web.econ.ohio-state.edu/~tan/teaching.html>

Lecture notes, paper prompts, and other course materials will be posted on the course website.

### **Course Overview:**

This course will span current antitrust issues in the United States. We deal with antitrust issues everyday although we might not know it. Examples span from the likes of Microsoft (why does Internet Explorer, and not Firefox, come pre-installed on computers with Windows?) to potato chips (does it seem strange that the price of a bag of chips is stamped directly on the bag?) to the National Football League (is it good that Reebok holds the exclusive rights to produce apparel for the NFL?). A major theme of this course will be focused on looking at the issues' past, present, and future. This course will chronicle the history of antitrust issues in order to understand how we got to the situations we face today. From there, we can focus on where we are headed in the future. My goal is to ensure that you will be able to discuss and analyze current antitrust issues as economic majors and minors from a top university.

### **GEC in Arts and Sciences, Skills, Writing and Related Skills, Second Writing Category:**

Economics 367.02 has been designed with the general learning objectives of this category in mind. The readings, class discussions, and written assignments will further students' abilities:

- To apply basic skills in expository writing.
- To demonstrate critical thinking through written and oral expression.
- To use and retrieve written information analytically and effectively

Economics 367.02 fits directly into this category by addressing these main learning objectives. The assigned papers, oral presentations, and classroom discussion aid students in:

- Developing their expository writing skills by the drafting of several short argument papers.
- Demonstrating their critical thinking in applying economic analyses to their arguments.
- Learning about the vast resources available through the university libraries system.
- Articulating their opinions as debate leaders and participants.
- Learning the process of writing research papers: topic submission, outline, rough draft, and incorporation of criticism.

**Required Textbook:**

There is no required textbook for this class. However, I do require you to purchase a quarter-long subscription to the Wall Street Journal, which will be used for your class assignments. You can purchase a 10 week student subscription at <http://wsjstudent.com> for \$25.

**Lecture:**

I will motivate each lecture with a news article from the Wall Street Journal. Students will be asked for their opinions and first impressions of the current event. I will then lecture on background information and economic theory on the general topic. Each lecture will conclude with a discussion on how historical events led to occurrence of the current event.

**Submission of Assignments:**

You must turn in all assignments at the start of class on the specified due date. Electronic submission or assignments placed in my mailbox will not be accepted. Late assignments will *not* be accepted without documented medical emergency or family emergency.

**Grading:**

Grades for this course will be assigned as follows:

Paper #1 (Antitrust Case): 20% (due date: January 27, 2010)

Paper #2 (Merger Analysis): 20% (due date: February 24, 2010)

Final Exam: 25% (March 15, 2010)

Group Presentation: 15%

Current Events: 10%

Participation: 10%

**Papers:**

There will be two five-page papers assigned during the quarter. The first paper will have you research an antitrust case. The second paper will have you analyze a recent merger. In both cases, you will have to provide background information, describe the legal issues surrounding the case/merger, and cite a related article from the Wall Street Journal. There will be a peer review session a week before each paper is due. You will be required to solicit peer edits on your rough draft from three classmates, as well as peer edit their rough drafts. You must turn in your paper portfolio (your final draft plus the three peer edited rough drafts) in class on the specified due date.

**Current Events:**

There will be five current events assignments, in which you will write a one page current event on two news articles from the Wall Street Journal that pertain to the previous week's lectures. You will summarize the two articles, specify how they relate to the course material, and provide some insightful commentary on the issue. The most important thing is that you demonstrate a grasp of the concepts discussed in the course.

**Final Exam:**

The final exam will cover material from the lectures, student presentations, as well as any relevant material that arises through class discussion. The essay-based exam will test your ability to critically analyze the issues presented in class, as well as portray an understanding of the theory inherent in the issues. It is your responsibility to plan around scheduled exam times. Travel plans are *not* an emergency.

**Group Presentation:**

You will make a presentation on a current event in groups of three people. You are free to choose the members of your group and your group's topic. The topic of your presentation does not necessarily have to pertain to the course material covered in this class, but does have to relate to a current economic event. Potential topics include health care reform, the recent financial crisis, or the housing bubble. Of course, you are welcome (and encouraged) to present material on other topics. You must email me the names of your group members by Friday, January 22, 2010. Your presentation topic must be approved by me by Friday, February 5, 2010. I will allocate an entire lecture period (Wednesday, February 24, 2010) as a group presentation planning session. I foresee that the same topic will be presented on by multiple groups. I reserve the right to deny a valid presentation topic if there are already a few groups presenting on that topic. Therefore, it is in your best interest to organize your group and inform me of your desired presentation topic as soon as possible.

Your grade on the group presentation will be composed of two parts: the ability to work together and personal effort/organization/content.

- Ability to Work Together: The presentation should flow well and be reasonably integrated. Points will be deducted from all group members if it is clear that one or more students have not participated fully or the group is not well organized.
- Personal Effort/Organization/Content: Each group will be given 20 minutes to present. After each presentation, 10 minutes will be allocated for questions from myself and/or fellow classmates. One student in the group should introduce the current issue, another student should discuss the issue's past, while the third group member should discuss where the group thinks the issue is headed.

**Participation:**

An attendance check will be conducted during each class period. If you miss three class periods, then you will be dropped an entire letter grade. If you miss six class periods, then you will be dropped two letter grades.

**Academic Misconduct:**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term academic misconduct includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct ([http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource\\_csc.asp](http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp)).

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

**Tentative Schedule:**

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Jan 4	Introduction	
Jan 6	Price Fixing / Collusion	
Jan 11	Predatory Pricing	Current Event #1
Jan 13	Tying / Bundling	
Jan 18	No School: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Jan 20	Peer Review for Paper #1	Current Event #2
Jan 25	Price Discrimination	
Jan 27	Patents / Research & Development	Paper #1
Feb 1	Horizontal Mergers	Current Event #3
Feb 3	Vertical Mergers	
Feb 8	Resale Price Maintenance	Current Event #4
Feb 10	Exclusive Territories	
Feb 15	Exclusive Dealing	Current Event #5
Feb 17	Peer Review for Paper #2	
Feb 22	Sports and Antitrust	
Feb 24	Group Presentation Planning Session	Paper #2
Mar 1	Group Presentations	
Mar 3	Group Presentations	
Mar 8	Group Presentations	
Mar 10	Group Presentations	
Mar 15	FINAL EXAM (3:30pm-5:18pm in MP 1035)	