

ECON3810/CS5846/ECON6760: Decision Theory I

Welcome to the class!

Please open your webbrowser now, and take the survey at
<https://lblume.economics.cornell.edu/survey/>.

(There are only 2 questions and it should take \leq 1 minute.)

Some Bureaucracy

All three versions of the course have the same lectures

- ▶ On the homework/prelim/exams there will be some different questions for undergrads (ECON 3810) and grads (CS 5846 + ECON 6760)
- ▶ CS 5846 and ECON 6760 are treated the same way
- ▶ You can find lots of course material on the course website:
<http://www.cs.cornell.edu/courses/cs5846/2021sp/>
 - ▶ Homework, class notes, announcements, . . .
 - ▶ Pay particular attention to course policies.

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We will also be using Ed Discussion for course announcements and discussion (instead of Piazza)

- ▶ Ed Discussion can be accessed through Canvas
- ▶ Note that anonymous posts are not anonymous to course staff

Recordings of classes will also be posted on Canvas

- ▶ The course is listed on Canvas as “ECON 6760/...”

Course Policies: Highlights

We would like this course to be as interactive as possible

- ▶ Prof. Blume and I will comment on what the other person is saying (politely, of course, even if we disagree :-))
- ▶ Please ask lots of questions!
 - ▶ Use the hand-raising feature on zoom (or just ask)
 - ▶ Posting questions on chat is OK; we'll monitor the chat window
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- ▶ Structure: You will have a certain amount of time to do them in a 24-hour window
 - ▶ It will be useful for us to know what time zone you are in

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The text is Kreps' *Notes on the Theory of Choice*.

Prerequisites

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Students who have not had experience with writing mathematical proofs have had difficulty with the course in the past.

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- ▶ Formal models of decision making under certainty (when all the information is known) and uncertainty (when it's not)
- ▶ Problems with standard approaches to decision making
- ▶ Applying decision theory to ethical issues