Course Description
This course considers game theory applications to a wide array of substantive questions in political science. The material is tailored to student interests. We will evaluate how authors use game models to advance their arguments in the context of research questions, around which the dissertation research of students in the class will be framed.

Class Meetings
Each week one student will lead class. That student is expected to understand both the underlying theory and substantive implications of the papers being covered in the session. Discussion should cover the importance of the question under consideration, how the author modeled the process of interest, the strengths and weaknesses of the author’s approach, and what can be learned from the author’s efforts.

Grading
Your final grade is a weighted average of the following components:

1) Paper and presentation (40%)
You will prepare one research paper, which you will deliver to each other (and interested parties) at the end of the semester. The paper should take up a substantive question of interest to your subfield. And of course, the theoretical argument should be made via a game theory model.

As the syllabus suggests, you will have the chance to present a preliminary version to the class. At this meeting, please provide us with a short selection of readings, which you believe are essential to setting up your question. Also, please distribute a written description of your model and results. There will be no need to provide the complete paper at this meeting.

2) Class Participation (40%)
Be prepared. Be involved.

3) Peer Review (20%)
Following each student’s presentation of his or her model, you are required to give written comments to him or her. Please give me a copy, as well. Your comments should highlight what is interesting about the model and what is problematic. It should also suggest how the author might move the model forward toward completion.

Assignment of Letter Grades
Final course letter grades will be assigned based upon the scales shown below (I round to the nearest whole number):

A  93-100  C  73-76
A-  90-92  C-  70-72
In practice, I expect a graduate student in a Ph.D. program to reach the A-level. Work at the B+ level is below my expectations. Work at the A level is unexpected and I reserve that grade to reward outstanding performance.

**Incomplete Grades**
No incomplete grades will be given unless there is an agreement between the instructor and the student prior to the end of the course. The instructor retains the right to determine legitimate reasons for an incomplete grade.

**Integrity of Scholarship**
I will follow the guidelines established by Emory College, which can be found at http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html. In short, don’t cheat. The benefits are small. Even if the probability of getting caught is tiny, the costs of getting caught are huge.

**Students with Disabilities**
If you anticipate needing any type of an academic accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please discuss this with the instructor within the first week of class. Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should consult the Office of Disability Services at 404-727-6016 (TDD: 404-712-2049).

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

**Course Schedule**

January 15 – Course Introduction

January 22 – Assumptions and Building a Paper
- Staton, Jeffrey K. and Georg Vanberg. “The Value of Vagueness: The Early Years.” *Class: I will email this to you.*

January 29 – Autocracy (Jun) – Maybe we move this to Monday February, 1.
February 5 – Autocracy and Democracy (Jun)

**February 12 – No Class**

February 19 – Bargaining Models of War (Nathan)

February 26 – Conflict Part II (Nathan)

March 5 – Judicial Legitimacy and Power (John)

**March 12 – Spring Break**

March 19 – Hierarchies: Principals, Agents and Teams (John)

March 26 – Information Models (BK)

April 2 – Human Rights (BK)
- TBA
- TBA

April 9 – Jun and Nathan’s Class
April 16 – John and BK’s Class
   • Comments due

April 23 – No Class
   • Comments due

April 30 – Presentations
   • Time and room, TBA

May 3 – Papers due