395A.13: EMPIRICAL AUCTION WORK

The course provides a graduate-level introduction to empirical auction research. It is designed to provide students with an introduction to the empirical methods used to analyze various auction settings. The goal is to give students enough background in the relevant literature and empirical methods so that they can begin to undertake their own research in the area.

**Lectures:** Monday 2:50-5:20, Social Sciences Building 113

**Web Page:** [http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/Economics/faculty/j.roberts](http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/Economics/faculty/j.roberts)

**Text:** There is no required text for the course.

**Grading:** Evaluation will be based on several problem sets and an in-class presentation. There may also be 1-2 “practice” referee reports.

**Course Outline:** Below is the course outline and reading list for each topic. It is up to you to determine the amount of reading that maximizes your objective function. The relevant reading should be done prior to that class. An * marks required reading. I realize that some articles are repeated throughout the syllabus since they are important for understanding a variety of topics covered in the class. The articles are in no particular order, but generally speaking, the more empirical papers are listed first.

**Week 1: 8/24/09**

*Introduction, review of necessary auction theory, notation*

Suggested Reading:


**Week 2: 8/31/09**

*Second Price, English, and Open Outcry Auctions*

Suggested Reading:


**Week 3: 9/7/09**

*First Price, Dutch and Sealed Bid Auctions*

Suggested Reading:


**Week 4: 9/14/09**

*Tests of Private vs. Common Values and the Theory*


Suggested Reading:


**Week 5: 9/21/09**
Multi-unit Auctions and Auction Design


Suggested Reading:

Multi-Unit Auctions:


**Auction Design:**


Week 6: 9/28/09

**Collusion and Less-Traveled areas: Scoring, Dynamics and Entry**


Suggested Reading:

**Collusion:**


Forthcoming.


Week 7: 10/12/09 (no class on 10/5/09 because of Fall Break)

Dynamics and Experimental work (Time permitting) and Left over student presentations

Students who still need to present can choose from the following papers:


Suggested Reading:

*Scoring, Dynamics and Entry:*


*Experimental:*