1 Description

This course will focus on strategic models of communication. We’ll cover a wide range of cheap talk models and models with evidence or hard information.

2 Requirements

There are three short assignments required for this course. Two assignments will be “referee reports” — short (two to three page) discussions giving a thoughtful, critical summary of a paper in the literature. These will be due Monday October 3 and Monday November 7. The third assignment is a research proposal, due the last day of class Monday December 12. I will provide more instructions on these assignments later.

3 Office Hours

My office hours will be Thursdays and Fridays from 11 to 12:30 starting Thursday September 8 and ending Friday December 9. Office hours are subject to change, with all changes announced in class. Also, of course, I will be available at other times by appointment.
4 Course Outline

I will discuss only a small portion of the papers listed below and may end up covering papers not listed here. The starred readings are the ones I’ll primarily discuss, while the others are to give you some guidance if you wish to do further reading and to give you some possibilities for referee reports. The papers are listed in alphabetical order within topics, not the order in which I will discuss them. I will let you know as we work our way through the literature which papers we will be covering a few lectures in advance. We will begin with Crawford and Sobel 1982.

4.1 Cheap Talk


4.2 Evidence

4.2.1 Games


### 4.2.2 Mechanism Design and Implementation


*Bull, J., and J. Watson, “Hard Evidence and Mechanism Design,” *Games and Economic
Behavior, 58, January 2007, 75–93.


4.2.3 Costly Verification


4.3 Language


