

# **MSc Contests, Auctions and Mechanism Design**

University of Haifa  
Department of Economics

**Lecturer: Todd Kaplan**

**todd@econ.haifa.ac.il**

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Wednesday 2-5 pm., Lecture

7065 Rabin Building  
824-9589

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[econ.haifa.ac.il/~todd/contests.html](http://econ.haifa.ac.il/~todd/contests.html)

## **Syllabus**

### **Goals:**

1. To learn modelling tools for the design of markets and mechanisms.
2. To understand how to set up efficient and/or profit maximizing institutions.

### **Structure:**

- There will be three hours of lecture.

### **Rules and Expectations:**

- You are expected to show up to each lecture and tutorial.
- You will not be allowed to sit for the exam if you do not show up to at least 8 lectures and tutorials (including the first day).
- If you have army or medical reasons for absence for  $x$  weeks, you will have to show up to  $\min\{8, 12-x\}$  weeks.
- You are expected to review your lecture notes at the end of each week.
- You are expected to turn in two homework assignments.
- Homework can be worked on together, but must be written up separately.
- There will be a final exam worth the remaining 80% of the final mark.
- Depending upon the number of students, the exam may be a take home exam.
- In the event of a take home exam, it will be timed at 48 hours. Then, you **MUST** answer the test completely on your own. You will not be allowed to talk to anyone else about the exam or look at their answers.

**Grade:** 20% homework and 80% final exam.

**Books:** There is no specific book, but there will be lecture notes and papers.

**Topics:** Contests, Auctions, Mechanism Design.

### **Webpage and Contact:**

- I will put up materials on the course webpage (see above).
- Feel free to ask questions during and after class (NOT BEFORE).
- I also have office hours on Thursday 11-12. Please email me to let me know that you will be there.
- You can also email me questions: I'll try my best to answer most emails, but sometimes I may miss one. If I don't respond in a couple of days, try again.