The textbook for the course is


For many classes, lecture notes will also be made available.

Reading List

* denotes required reading. The reading list and topics will be updated as the course evolves, and the latest version will be posted on the course website.

1. Theoretical and empirical background

*Jackson Chapters 1-3.


2. Peer effects

A. Theory


B. Education and the workplace


C. Learning and technology adoption


Bloom, Nicholas, Mark Schankerman and John Van Reenen. \Identifying Technology Spillovers and Product Market Rivalry". Econometrica 81, no. 4 (2013):1347-1393. link

Cai, Jing, Alain de Janvry, and Elisabeth Sadoulet. \Social Networks and the Decision to Insure." MPRA Paper, May 9, 2013. link.


D. Creation of ideas


3. Opinion formation through social learning

A. Observational learning


Grimm, Veronika, and Friederike Mengel. An experiment on belief formation in net- works. Available at SSRN 2361007 (2013).link


B. Word-of-mouth learning

*Jackson, Chapters 7-8.


Mobius, Markus, Tuan Phan, and Adam Szeidl. Treasure Hunt. working paper, 2010. [link]


4. Social capital and trust


Carrell, Scott E., Mark Hoekstra, and James E. West. \Racial Preference Formation.\ (2013) [link]


Karlan, Dean, Markus M. Mobius, Tanya S. Rosenblat, and Adam Szeidl. \Measuring Trust in Peruvian Shantytowns\" (2009). [link]


5. Labor markets

*Jackson, Chapter 10.2.


*Granovetter, Mark S. "The Strength of Weak Ties." American Journal of Sociology (1973): 1360–1380. link


6. Favoritism and political connections


7. Firm networks


Atkin, David, et al. "Organizational Barriers to Technology Adoption: Evidence from Soccer-Ball Producers in Pakistan." 


8. Financial networks


Cifuentes, Rodrigo, Gianluigi Ferrucci, and Hyun Song Shin. Liquidity Risk and Contagion." Journal of the European Economic Association 3, no. 2(3 (2005): 556{566. link


9. Network formation: evidence and random graph models

*Jackson, Chapters 4-5.


10. Network formation: strategic models


11. Network games

*Jackson, Chapter 9.


12. Trading in networks


