SRING 2010 Gaming Course Student Evaluations

1. **What Gaming topics could have been included in this course that were not?**
   - Lottery particularly in terms of expected value._
   - Horse Racing, particularly how the payoff odds are determined based on the wagering. _
   - Gambler's Ruin is in the text but was not covered in the course, it sounds like an interesting topic._
   - The only thing that comes to mind is board games. Figuring on things like what properties to buy or avoid in Monopoly might be interesting. More examples from Sports might be cool too._
   - I would have liked to learn more about the lottery. It was in the book but we did not cover it in the course._
   - I think there was a large range of topics. I really don't see how we could have fit any more topics into the course. _
   - What little I knew about gaming was covered in the course, so I really don't have any insights on any other topics._
   - Betting on professional sports._
   - Lottery and horse betting. _
   - More strategies on how to win at casino games._
   - I am not sure but I think it is exhaustive. _
   - Lottery._

2. **What was the best part of this course for you?**
   - In terms of content the Game Theory part of this course was most enjoyable for me. More generally, this was my first online course and I really liked the flexibility it gives._
   - My exposure to casino games, and a better understanding of card games._
   - The challenge of probability. It was good to exercise my brain and to find out I was pretty good at it._
   - Definitely the subject which is why I picked it; putting math to gaming is fun. Also learning the logic behind game strategy, and knowing how to do it on my own was informative/useful. My blackjack and poker games have improved a lot!_
   - My favorite aspect of this class was learning how to play casino games properly._
   - The availability you made of yourself to meet up with me for help. This was a difficult course for me, I knew nothing about cards, games, etc. coming into this class. So your help in your office helped me greatly._
   - The reading on slots, just because I know so many people who play them._

- The best part of the course was doing the reading exercises out of the MENSA Guide._
- I loved learning how to think differently. I look at casinos in a much different light now._
- I liked working with expected value. I liked using math in a new area of thought._
- I liked that it was built around an interesting topic. That helped me learn easier. We could actually use this stuff._

3. **Did you use any of the gaming web sites in this course? If so were they helpful?**
   - Yes. I found them helpful, particularly the Craps simulation because it made it easier to understand how the difficult wagers worked._
   - Yes. They were fun and yes more helpful._
   - Yes. Craps. I learned how to play but I want to see how its played with other people and to see how they bet._
   - I have already used most of them, especially YAHOO! They are helpful because seeing the strategies and numbers work "in action" is a big help and shows this study is worthwhile._
   - I used the Craps and Blackjack sites. They helped me understand the rules of those games better, and strategies._
   - Yes, they helped me understand the concept of how the game was played._
   - The YAHOO! Game for poker was helpful and fun._

4. **What was the hardest part of this course for you?**
   - The hardest part was interpreting strategy such as with the poker problems where we calculate individual probabilities, but then have to make the determination of what was the better play._
   - The fact that every assignment had to be typed and cannot be scanned. Even though, I learned a few tweaks using the Equation Editor._
   - The missile problem and sometimes determining which formula to use._
   - The hardest part was probably writing out all of the steps. Sometimes I knew the answer, but couldn't necessarily prove it. Writing out the steps can sometimes take a long time._
   - I think the hardest part was the probability of things like missiles hitting and cancer occurring._
   - Being online. I really needed a classroom and a teacher in front of a blackboard._
   - Game Theory, mostly for personal reasons though. My focus was gone at the end and I had a little trouble grasping the information._

5. **We studied Game Theory in the last three weeks of the course. If you had the option of spending 3 weeks on Game Theory or 3 weeks on other gaming topics (casino, lottery, horse racing, gambler's ruin, etc.) what would you choose? Explain**
   - I liked the section on Game Theory because it was completely new to me. Because of its origins in Economics and examples like the WWII problems, the Game Theory portion of the course helps illustrate that while this course focuses mainly on gaming, the probability concepts taught here have other applications. So I would keep the Game theory section._
   - I will probably choose the game theory because it will have more meaning to me with economics background and with less interest in the casino or lottery etc._
   - The latter. The gaming was fun and a little more of an interesting challenge._
   - As I love games, I would choose more time on gaming topics. Game Theory was interesting, and I acknowledge that information was helpful toward the overall concept. But putting things into action was the funnest part for me._
   - I would have liked to study lottery and horseracing for 1 week each actually. I found the Game Theory topics easy._
   - I liked how you had the last three weeks of Game Theory. I understood the concepts a lot better with your help. I wouldn't change the last three weeks of Game Theory._
   - I would have to choose other gaming topics. I liked the problems at the beginning of the course because I could check my answers by working the problems other ways. I wasn't able to do that with the Game Theory._
   - Other gaming topics instead of Game Theory._
   - Spend more time on Game Theory._

6. **What would you have liked to see more of in this course? Less of?**
   - I was mostly happy with the overall balance. However, since I was familiar with the basic probability rules, I would have preferred that part of the course be condensed a bit in order to add another topic like Gambler's Ruin._
   - A little bit of video presentation on some topics would be very beneficial._
   - ?_
   - I thought there was a good balance of things. I may not have enjoyed Game Theory as much but I understood why it was there. I also think a nice variety of games was used, although more would not be bad…Baccarat and even something like Spades or Pinochle._
   - It would have been nice to take a field trip! (21!). Otherwise I loved it.
   - Maybe once a week we all meet up in the Chat room. (Instructor's Note: we tried, the Chat tool did not function properly). We tried once or twice, there was

an error logging in. But I think that would have helped students and myself to bounce off one another._

- I thought the class was very well balanced and the workload very manageable._

7. **Final Comments.**
   - Overall, I quite enjoyed the course. One thing I would like to see is better integration between the two textbooks, if possible. For the most part it seemed like we were either reading the MENSA text or doing problems from the probability text. I'm not sure specifically how to make them feel less separate but its something that stood out to me._
   - I enjoyed the course in all aspects. I used to shy away from probability topics but now I am a little bit more relaxed with it. Thanks._
   - I've enjoyed this class. I appreciated the challenge and the knowledge. I'm going to test this knowledge the next time I play poker._
   - I enjoyed the class immensely and thank you for your excellent explanation of the material. I think this makes the topic of probability accessible and interesting to most anyone. You are an excellent teacher._
   - I think the course was very practical and you are a nice addition to the books._
   - I tried my hardest to keep up with the readings and home works. I struggled because I had to learn a lot of basic concepts before learning the actual material._
   - I would definitely recommend this course to others, especially to those who are not fans of math. The topics are interesting even if you don't like math._