

Selected Topics in Economics

Economics 483

Section: D100

Term: 2008 Spring

Instructor: J. Liu

Discussion Topics: Information technology industries are characterized by high fixed costs and low marginal costs of production, large switching costs for users, and strong network effects. This course focuses some of the important economic factors affecting information technology industries. Topics include: switching costs and lock-in, supply-side economies of scale, demand-side economies of scale, standards, systems effects, and computer mediated transactions.

Grading: Grading will be based on four assignments (20%), a midterm exam (30%), a term paper (15%), and a final exam (35%).

Required Texts: Hal R. Varian, Joseph Farrell and Carl Shapiro, *The Economics of Information Technology: an introduction*. Cambridge, 2004.

Recommended Texts:

Materials/Supplies:

Prerequisite/Corequisite: ECON 301 and 305; 60 credit hours

Notes: Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability must contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities (604) 291-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca.

All students are expected to read and understand SFU's policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

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