COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading course aims to familiarize the student with the current literature on the economics and econometrics of program evaluation. The course consists entirely of readings from the literature which will be discussed at the class sessions.

GRADING

Grading is based on class attendance and participation. It is imperative for the class to work well that everyone reads all the papers on the reading list every week. It is for this reason that the reading list has been kept fairly short and sweet. It is also important that participants come prepared with questions and comments, and that they be ready to respond to questions about the papers.

READINGS

Unless otherwise noted, all of the readings are available through at least one of the University of Michigan Library on-line journal collection, the NBER website (where working papers are free to download from University of Michigan IP addresses) or JStor. If a published version is listed in the reading list, you should read that in preference to the NBER working paper version, but if the working paper is listed, it is there for a reason. The more obscure and unpublished papers by me are available on my website.

BACKGROUND READINGS

These are general introductions to the econometric evaluation literature, arranged in ascending order of technical level.


**READING LIST**

**Topic 1: Causality and social experiments**


**Topic 2: Quantile treatment effects**


Topic 3: Bounds


Topic 4: Matching


Topic 5: More matching


Topic 6: Dynamic treatment assignment


**Topic 7: Instrumental variables**


**Topic 8. Longitudinal methods**


**Topic 9: Comparing non-experimental estimators**


HLS, Sections 8.3 and 8.4.

**Topic 10: Partial equilibrium structural evaluation**


**Topic 11: General equilibrium evaluation**


**Topic 12: General equilibrium evaluation**


**COURSE SCHEDULE**

1/3 No meeting – ASSA meetings

1/10 No meeting
1/17  Topic 1
1/24  Topic 2 [DIFFERENT DAY]
1/31  No meeting – Prof. Smith in Australia
2/7   Topic 3
2/14  Topic 4 – DIFFERENT DAY
2/21  No meeting – Prof. Smith in China
2/28  No meeting – Prof. Smith in China and winter break
3/6   Topic 5
3/13  Topic 6
3/20  Topic 7
3/27  Topic 8
4/3   Topic 9
4/10  Topic 10
4/17  Topic 11
4/24  Topic 12