COURSE DESCRIPTION

This reading course aims to familiarize the student with the basic issues in the econometric program evaluation, as well as with several current topics in that literature. The course consists entirely of readings from the literature, which will be presented and discussed at the class sessions.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Given the large volume of students in the course, there will be two groups, a Monday group and a Wednesday group. Each student will be assigned to one group. Most of the topics will be covered twice, once by each group. The first topic and the last two topics will be covered in combined 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.

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 – part one

[Available on JStor]

[Available on JStor]

[Available on JStor]

Topic 2: Social experiments – part two

[Available on JStor]

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection]

Topic 3: Quantile treatment effects

[Available at http://glue.umd.edu/~gelbach/papers/]

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection]

Topic 4: Bounds

[Available on JStor]


**Topic 5: Further issues in matching**


**Topic 6: Dynamic treatment assignment**


Topic 7: Regression discontinuity designs

HLS, Section 7.4.6.
[To be distributed in hard copy; see also the background reading section]

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection.]

[Available on JStor]


Topic 8: Instrumental variables

[Available on JStor]

[Available on JStor]

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection]

Topic 9: Longitudinal methods

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection]

[To be circulated in hard copy]

[To be circulated in hard copy]


[Available from the UM library e-journal collection]

**Topic 10: Comparing non-experimental estimators**

[Available on JStor]

[Available on JStor]

[Available on JStor]

[Available from the UM library e-journal collection and in working paper form on www.glue.umd.edu/~jsmithz/papers/jeff_papers.htm]

HLS, Sections 8.3 and 8.4.
[To be distributed in hard copy; see also the background reading section]
Topic 11: Meta-analysis


Topic 12: Partial equilibrium structural evaluation


Topic 13: General equilibrium evaluation


COURSE SCHEDULE

1/26  No meeting
1/31  Everybody: Course introduction
2/2   Everybody: Experiments – part one
2/7   Monday group: Experiments – part two
2/9   Wednesday group: Experiments – part two
2/14  Monday group: Quantile treatment effects
2/16  Wednesday group: No meeting
2/21  Monday group: Bounds
2/23  Wednesday group: Quantile treatment effects
2/28  No meeting (snow)
3/2   Wednesday group: Bounds
3/7   Monday group: Matching – further issues
3/9   Wednesday group: Matching – further issues
3/14  Monday group: Dynamic treatment assignment
3/16  Wednesday group: Dynamic treatment assignment
3/21  No meeting (spring break)
3/23  No meeting (spring break)
3/28  Monday group: Regression discontinuity designs
3/30  Wednesday group: Regression discontinuity designs
4/4   Monday group: Instrumental variables
4/6   Wednesday group: Instrumental variables
4/11  No meeting
4/13  No meeting
4/18  Monday group: Longitudinal methods
4/20  Wednesday group: Longitudinal methods
4/25  Monday group: Comparing non-experimental estimators
4/27  Wednesday group: Comparing non-experimental estimators
5/2   Monday group: Meta-analysis
5/4   Wednesday group: Meta-analysis
5/9 Everybody: Partial equilibrium structural evaluation
5/11 Everybody: General equilibrium evaluation