

ECO 5426 : Econometric Analysis 1

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Perihan Saygin

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Office Hours: via Zoom Wednesday 12:45 – 1:45 pm

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Office Hours: via Zoom by appointment on Google Appointments

Course Meetings and Location:

M,W | Period 7 - 8 (1:55 PM - 3:50 PM) Room MAT 114

Course Description and Purpose:

This course provides an introduction to research design for analyzing data in economics. We will explore these methods with a focus on issues in empirical microeconomics and public policy analysis. By the end of the course, students should have a grasp of the types of research design that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with data sets.

The goal of the course is twofold: To teach students how to conduct empirical analysis in order to answer questions concerning the identification of causal effects and to provide them with the tools to critique empirical studies. With this goal in mind, the main focus will be on applications while the mathematics of econometrics will be touched upon only when needed.

Textbook and Course Material:

Lectures are mostly based on the required textbooks:

Mastering Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect by Joshua Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke, Princeton University Press

I will also refer to selected chapters from:

Introductory Econometrics by Stock and Watson, 4th Edition

Also another textbook by the same authors as the first required textbook (Joshua Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke) will be very helpful but not required:

Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion. Princeton University Press.

I will also post on Canvas course site various other readings for selected classes, as well as my lecture slides. The lecture slides are not comprehensive lecture notes and you will be **REQUIRED** to read the textbooks and additional papers in the required readings. You will also be responsible for material from class that is not covered in the textbook (such as other videos posted and examples and papers discussed in class).

Discussion Board:

For every module of the course on the Canvas course site, there will be a discussion board where students are expected to ask related questions. If a question you had is already asked in the discussion board, please make sure you make a comment or “like” the already posted question so that we can see which questions are more “popular” on the discussion board. Discussion board for a specific topic will remain active throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to answer questions asked by other students on the discussion board. Regardless, every question will be answered by the TA or the instructor either on the discussion board or in class.

Office Hours:

This semester I will hold office hours via Zoom. The office hours will take place on every Wednesday from 12:45-1:45 pm which will be reserved for questions about the course material where all students can join the conversation and ask their questions. No sign up is required for Monday discussion office hours. Just show up with your questions and join the Zoom meeting. This will be a good opportunity to have your questions answered, to learn from others’ questions.

I will be available to schedule individual office hours meetings which will be dedicated to individual meetings to discuss any individual concern or academic and professional questions outside of the course material. You can sign up for these office hours by emailing me.

The TA office hours are held to help you with your questions on problem sets and Stata use. You can also email the TA for individual questions or concerns about the problem sets.

Software: Stata

The applied component to this course requires the use of Stata software. Knowledge of Stata is NOT a prerequisite. You will be given a short introduction in the first exercise session. Students are required to use Stata software on assignments, and should expect to be tested on basic coding and output. Great resources are available online. One of them is Stata website. I find the cheatsheets helpful for beginners:

<https://www.stata.com/bookstore/stata-cheat-sheets/>

Unfortunately, Stata is not an open source software. You can access Stata through UF Apps (<https://info.apps.ufl.edu/>) from any place. Please reach out the the TA in case you have no experience with UF Apps and need help with getting started.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1	Introduction of Syllabus
Week 2	Causality vs Correlation
Week 3	Randomized Trials
Week 4	Randomized Trials - Applications + Introduction to Stata - Applied Session
Week 5	Regression, Omitted Variable Bias, and Bad Controls
Week 6	Nonlinear Regression Functions
Week 7	Regression - Applied Exercise - Review for Exam 1
Week 8	Exam 1 - Differences-in-Differences
Week 9	Differences-in-Differences
Week 10	Differences-in-Differences- Applied Exercise - Stata Session
Week 11	Instrumental Variables
Week 12	Instrumental Variables
Week 13	Regression Discontinuity Design
Week 14	NO CLASS
Week 15	Regression Discontinuity Design
Week 16	Review and Exam 2

Exams:

There will be two exams. The tentative dates for the exams are as follows:

Exam 1: Oct 9 Monday 1.55 pm MAT 114

Exam 2: Dec 6 Wednesday 1.55 pm MAT 114

These dates are subject to change and finalized dates/times and location are going to be announced at least two weeks before the exams. Make-up exams must be arranged BEFORE the exam date/time and will only be offered for UF-related conflicts and religious holidays. Keep in mind that your academic obligations always take precedence over personal and social commitments. Unexcused absences from exams results in a grade of 0. No Incompletes, No Grade Changes, No Extensions, and No Substitute Work. All exam dates/deadlines will be just as firm as they would have been in an in-person version of this course. That is, I will require documentation for all excused absences (except for religious holidays), and that any issue for which documentation cannot be obtained should be directed to the Dean of Students Office without exception.

Assignments:

You will also be given assignments regularly. You may work in groups. You are, however, required to submit INDIVIDUAL problem sets for grading. Copying another student's work is not permissible. Submitting the same assignment with other student(s) results in grade of 0.

Both for the exams and assignments, you are required to demonstrate all of your work and provide thorough explanations to receive credit. For assignments you will submit separate Stata do files and outputs. Attach all of your work on additional sheets if necessary.

The assignments should be typed and submitted work should be organized and well-structured as if they are professional business reports.

Failing to turn in the assignments before the deadlines results in a grade of 0. No Incompletes, No Grade Changes, No Extensions, and No Substitute Work. Software and/or computer problems are no excused. You are responsible of making sure your software works and you always back up your work in case the computer crashes.

I only offer make-up assignments when there are known system-wide outages. These are the only outages that I can verify. I cannot verify individual connectivity problems, and thus, cannot accommodate them.

You are responsible for verifying that any online assignment submission has properly been submitted through Canvas. As a best practice, after submitting any assignment, close your browser, reopen Canvas, and check that your assignment properly appears. As an additional best practice, never submit an assignment through the Canvas mobile app.

There will be for main problem sets with the following deadlines:

	Topics	Available on	Due on
PS 1	Causality and Randomized Experiments	Aug 30	Sep 6
PS 2	Randomized Experiments Stata Exercises	Sep 15	Sep 22
PS 3	Regression Analysis and Stata Exercises	Sep 27	Oct 4
PS 4	Differences-in-Differences Analysis and Stata Exercises	Oct 18	Oct 25
PS 5	Instrumental Variables and Stata Exercises	Nov 3	Nov 10
PS 6	Regression Discontinuity Design and Stata Exercises	Nov 27	Dec 4

All submission deadlines are firm. That is, I will require documentation for all excused absences (except for religious holidays), and that any issue for which documentation cannot be obtained should be directed to the Dean of Students Office without exception.

No Class/No Office Hour:

September 4 Monday (Holiday), Nov 20 Monday (I am attending SEA Conference), Nov 22-23 Wednesday and Thursday (Holiday).

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Assignments	50%
Total	100%

Grades will be rounded to the nearest percentage point and you will obtain your letter grade accordingly. Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

93–100	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
67–69	D+
60–66	D
0–59	E

If you are concerned about your ability to obtain a certain grade that you aim for or you believe your performance does not reflect your ability and effort, you should contact the instructor as early as possible during the semester. There will be NO extra credit homework posted online etc. It is your responsibility to reach out to the instructor latest either after the first assignment grades or immediately after the first exam if you think you did poorly. (Not at the end of the semester.)

Course Resources and Hints for Success

The assignments and applied exercises are the greatest resource you have. These problem sets provide an almost-comprehensive review of the relevant course material and solution techniques.

These exercise sessions and problem sets offer insight into the structure and difficulty level of the actual exams, but they do not necessarily cover the same material. Also, students regularly report that they are less difficult than current term exams. Be prepared for this!

Before every class, lecture slides will be posted online. These slides are not necessarily intended as lecture notes. Superficial cramming will not lead to success; keeping up with the material is essential. After each lecture, review your notes, and test whether you understand a particular concept. If you have questions please post them in the discussion board as soon as you finish watching the video. The discussion board will be monitored closely and all the questions will be answered either on the board or during class.

You are encouraged to attend instructor's and TA's weekly office hours; attendance is highly correlated with success in the course. These meetings are a good opportunity to have your questions answered, to learn from others' questions, and meet other students and stay connected throughout the semester.

You will have multiple opportunities to get help while working on your assignments. Attempt assignment question sets before you bring questions to office hours; the problem sets are substantially less beneficial if you do not attempt them on your own.

There might be extra credit opportunities only for students whose first exam performance does not reflect their effort. Students are **REQUIRED** to contact the instructor to discuss such an opportunity latest within the first week after the first exam grades are announced.

Communication

I will communicate any relevant information for the lectures, exams, and assignments via email and/or Canvas announcements. It is VERY important that you check your UF emails regularly.

Our class or office hours sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live/in-person. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate verbally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared.

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

General Comments on Wellness and Success

College is an exciting learning experience and a unique opportunity for personal growth. It can, however, also be a stressful and difficult transitional period. If you are ever having general issues with your coursework in any course or trouble in your personal life, please seek help from myself or another faculty member. I also encourage you to utilize the FREE and ANONYMOUS services of the UF Counseling and Wellness Center.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.

If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated. As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

Academic Honesty

You are expected to abide by the University's rules for academic honesty. These are available for your review at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.php>. Cheating, plagiarism, and any other action that violates these rules will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. It should be noted that creating an excuse to take a make-up exam that cannot be verified and signing the attendance sheet on someone else's behalf constitute cheating under the University guidelines.

End-of-Term Course Evaluation

I encourage you to fill out the online course evaluation form that is available at <http://evaluations.ufl.edu>. I will provide class time – during which I will leave the room – for you to complete this online form at the end of the term. This will be announced in advance, and you will be encouraged to bring a wifi-enabled device (e.g., a laptop, tablet, or smartphone) to class that day.

I will pass out an alternative (separate from the official University of Florida form) course evaluation form at the end of the course. The official University of Florida form does not offer much valuable information for future improvements of this course. Please, help me and future students by offering honest and thorough information -- I greatly appreciate constructive criticism. I will not read these evaluations until all grades have been submitted.

Student Responsibility --be careful to read the syllabus for unique features of this course

Enrollment in this course constitutes acknowledgment of the following:

1. I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all of their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the University.
2. I will adhere to university copyright policies as found at <http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/copyright/>
3. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

4. Continued enrollment in this course is equivalent to acceptance of all stated responsibilities, policies, and due dates. If there is anything that is unclear, talk to me immediately. Waiting until the end of the term often results in less favorable outcomes.
5. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate actively in this course. It is assumed that you have read the assigned material before attending class and are prepared to answer questions based on the readings.