

ECO 4934 : Econometrics II

Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Perihan Saygin

Fall 2018

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Office Hours: Thur (5.00-6.00pm)

TA: Michael Teeple

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Office: Appointments by email

Office Hours: Friday 1:55 – 3:50 pm, in CSE E231

Course Time and Location:

M,W | Period 3 - 4 (9:35 AM - 11:30 AM) Room MAT 112

Course Description and Purpose:

This course examines econometric issues in empirical microeconomics and public policy analysis: identifying and estimating causal effects. It supplements topics covered in an introductory econometrics course with a focus on the sensible application of econometric methods to empirical problems.

The course provides background on issues that arise when analyzing nonexperimental social science data and a guide for tools that are useful for applied research. By the end of the course, students should have a firm grasp of the types of research design that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with data sets.

Prerequisite:

Required courses: ECO 2013, ECO 2023, ECO3101, MAC 223 or higher, and ECO4421 (Econometrics).

This course assumes that you have a good grasp of the concepts covered in Econometrics (ECO4421). For example, you should be familiar with the material in Appendices of Chapter 1 and 2 in the Mastering 'Metrics textbook. If you are not comfortable with this material, you should make time out of class to review this material. It is extremely unlikely that you will pass this course without knowledge of this material.

Textbook and Course Material:

Lectures are mostly based on the required textbook:

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

I have two optional textbooks recommendations: I will refer to selected chapters from another textbook by these same authors (Joshua Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke), called:

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

Another textbook that can be helpful is Stock and Watson, Introductory Econometrics: 3rd Updated Edition.

I will also post on Canvas 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 might also be responsible for material from class that is not covered in the textbook (videos, examples, papers discussed in class).

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.

Unfortunately, STATA is not an open source software. I reserved a computer classroom: which is available for you on every Friday 1:55 – 3:50 pm, in CSE E231. We have it from 8/24/18 through 12/7/18. The computers have STATA SE 14. The TA will be there holding office hours to help you with problem sets. You can also access STATA through UF Apps (<https://info.apps.ufl.edu/>) from any place.

Exams:

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

Exam 1: Oct 15 Monday 9.35 am MAT 112

Exam 2: Dec 3 Monday 9.35 am MAT 112

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.

If you need to, you MUST draw accurate and legible graphs in written exams. When graphing, use a straightedge (i.e., a ruler) and the appropriate colored pencils and follow the instructions.

Assignments:

You will also be given assignments regularly. You may work in groups; in fact, I highly recommend it. 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.

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.

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.

No Class/No Office Hour:

September 3 Monday (Holiday), November 12 Monday (Holiday), Nov 20 Monday (I am out of town for SEA conference in DC), Nov 21 Wednesday (Holiday).

Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Assignments	40%
Participation	10%
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.) If your attendance record shows more than 3 unexcused absences, extra credit is not an option.

Attendance Policy and Behavior

Irregular attendance or inattentiveness will most likely result in a substantial reduction in course performance. Please shut off or put away laptops, tablets, ipods, phones and other electronic devices or toys during class, unless asked otherwise.

In some classes, we will cover some in-class practices. In-class practice questions are NOT available online. During in-class practice studies, students are selected at random (without replacement -- in order to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity) to answer questions. These questions are not intended to trick you or “test” you; they are simply intended to enhance course participation. You are free to “take a pass” if you do not feel comfortable answering a particular question.

Participation and attention are REQUIRED and GRADED. The participation grade is the sum of 7 points for attendance and 3 points for effort for the class evaluated by the instructor. Participation grades will be calculated in the end of the semester. You are responsible for keeping track of how many classes you missed.

Please notify me if you will be absent from class. Lateness, premature departure, or failure to respond to your name being called while present will only count as half of a day. You are also required to communicate any lateness and/or premature departure beforehand. Failure to communicate will result in absence. If you missed the attendance sheet or forgot to sign, this is your responsibility.

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. I highly recommend taking thorough notes when the solutions are presented in class, as solutions are not posted online.

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.

You are encouraged to attend instructor’s and TA’s office hours; attendance is highly correlated with success in the course. Attempt practice 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. If your attendance record shows more than 3 unexcused absences, extra credit is not an option.

Communication

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

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.

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.