

# ECO 5427 : Econometric Analysis 2

## Syllabus

**Instructor:** Dr. Perihan Saygin

**Spring 2020**

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30pm

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**Office:** MAT 341

**Office Hours:** Thursday 4:00 – 5:00 pm

### Course Time and Location:

T,R | Period 3 - 4 (9:35 AM - 11:30 AM) Room MAT 114

### Course Description and Purpose:

This course is built on the ECO 5426 Econometric Analysis I. Following an introduction to research design for analyzing data in economics, in this course we will explore various methods with a focus on issues in empirical microeconomics and public policy analysis. Extensions include instrumental variables and regression discontinuity designs.

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. By the end of the course, students will have a grasp of various types of research design that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with data sets.

### 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 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 a prerequisite. 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. You can 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: Feb 20 Thursday 9.35am MAT 114

Exam 2: Apr 21 Tuesday 9.35am 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.

## **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.

## **Presentations and Replication Project:**

This project requires a replication and presentation of a paper of your choice. You are expected to work with a partner. In order to make the project more flexible, you are free to choose one of the following options:

1. Presentation with replication (Replication will add 10 points extra credit to the grade)
2. Presentation without replication

You will replicate one descriptive (summary) statistics table, and two other tables with main results and robustness checks or other specifications of the paper you select. You will prepare a presentation. The presentation is going to be timed and will be 30mins. First, you will introduce the research question of the paper, briefly explaining why this is an interesting question along with a literature review. Then you will proceed to the results you are replicating/presenting which should be at least one descriptive table or graph and an another table with the main results of the paper. Last but not least, you will present the conclusion of the paper. In the concluding remarks, you will discuss the potential problems of the identification strategy and possible improvements for further research.

As for grading, it will be graded based on quality/correctness and not based on completion. The presentation's clarity, time use, organization of slides will be also an important part of the rubric.

By Feb 27, every pair of students will submit a progress report. You will provide the title of the paper, a short description of the main research question of the paper along with the replication of at least one table. For those who are interested in option 2, I expect a submission of a one page description of the paper that you will be presenting with the main results table of your choice. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or reach out for help while working on your replication or presentation.

Presentations will be followed by questions/discussion. Audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and give comments. Non-presenters are expected to submit an evaluation of the paper and the presentation which will be separately graded. This implies that you will miss an assignment if you have an unexcused absence on the day of presentations.

Presentations will take place on March 31, April 2, April 7, April 9, and April 14. After having the groups formed, the dates might be updated. In case of any changes in the dates, you will be informed at least 2 weeks in advance.

## Grading Policy:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Assignments	20%
Presentation	30%
Presentation evaluations	10%
Participation	10%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 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.

### **No Class/No Office Hour:**

March 3 and 5 (Spring Break).

### **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, 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/](http://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 on Canvas. 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.

## **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.