

Syllabus “Advanced Econometrics” ECON-355, Spring 2015

Instructor: Tobias Pfutze

Office: Rice Hall 215

Phone: (440) 775-8927

Email: tpfutze@oberlin.edu

Office hours: Tue 11:00am-12:30pm, Wed 10:00-11:30am or by appointment.

Time: Tue, Thu 9:30-10:45am

Location: King 227

Course Objectives: The course aims to provide the student with a solid knowledge of the most commonly used econometric estimation techniques beyond basic OLS. It focuses exclusively on methods appropriate to conduct empirical microeconomics. The first part focuses on endogeneity problems in linear models and how panel data methods, instrumental variables and simultaneous equations models can be employed in the identification of a causal effect. The second part introduces the student to Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE) and develops estimators for its most common applications. About two thirds of the course will be allocated on the first part, which will have a strong focus on how the techniques covered can be applied to real world problems. Parts two, comprising the last third, will be much more theoretical in nature.

Course requirements and grading schemes: Letter grades will only be given at the end of the semester, not on individual assignments. There will be four problem sets, presentation of the assigned papers, a midterm, and an exam at the end of the course. Problem sets are due in class on Tuesday the week after they have been assigned. The final grade will consist of the following:

20% Presentations & Participation

20% Problem sets

20% Midterm

40% Final exam

Your presentations should be 15-20 minutes long, followed by in-class discussion. The focus of your presentation should be on the econometric methods employed and whether you think the results are convincing (and why or why not!). Make sure to read the paper carefully, as you will be expected to answer questions that may arise.

Textbook & Readings: The principal textbook for the course is

Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge, South Western College Publishing, 2009, 4th Edition. **(W)**

I will also post a few chapters from the following book on Blackboard (mostly as an easier introductory reading):

Introduction to Econometrics by James H. Stock and Mark W. Watson, Addison Wesley 2003.
(SW)

Microeconometrics: Methods and Applications by A Colin Cameron and Pravin K. Trivedi,
Cambridge University Press 2005 (CT)

In addition, we will go over a number of empirical papers that employ the methods discussed in class. Most of these will be presented by you or your peers and you are expected to read them ahead of class in order to be prepared for their discussion:

Pritchett, Lant; “*Where Has All the Education Gone?*” Policy Research Working Paper #1581,
The World Bank 1996

Acemoglu, Daron; Johnson, Simon; Robinson, James A.; “*The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation*”; AER 2001 (AJR 01)

Clemens, Michael; “*Do visas kill? Health effects of African health professional emigration*”;
CGD Working Paper #114, 2007

Yang, Dean; “*International Migration, Remittances and Household Investment: Evidence From Philippine Migrants’ Exchange Rate Shocks*”; EJ 2008

Duflo, Esther; “*Schooling and Labor Market Consequences of School Construction in Indonesia: Evidence From an Unusual Policy Experiment*”; AER 2001

Albouy, David; “*The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Investigation of the Settler Mortality Data*”, NBER Working Paper #W14130, 2008

Miguel, Edward; Kremer, Michael; “*Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities*”, *Econometrica* 2004

Bertrand, Marianne; Mullainathan, Sendhil; “*Are Emily and Greg More Employable than Lakisha and Jamal? A Field Experiment on Labor Market Discrimination*”, NBER Working Paper No. 9873

Bertrand, Marianne; Djankov, Simeon; Hanna, Rema; Mullainathan, Sendhil; “*Obtaining a Driving License in India: An Experimental Approach to Studying Corruption*”; QJE 2007 (BDHM 07)

Lee, David S.; Lemieux, Thomas; “*Regression Discontinuity Designs in Economics*”, *Journal of Economic Literature*, Vol.48, June 2010

Brollo, Fernanda; Nannicini, Tommaso; Perotti, Roberto; Tabellini, Guido; “*The Political Resource Curse*”, AER 2013, 103(5) (BNPT13)

Dell, Melissa; “*The persistent Effects of Peru’s Mining Mita*”; *Econometrica*, Vol.78(6), 2010

Heckman, James J.; Ichimura, Hidehiko; Todd Petra E.; “*Matching as an Econometric Evaluation Estimator: Evidence From Evaluating a Job Training Program*”, REStud 1997, No. 64

Smith Jeffrey A.; Todd Petra E.; “*Does Matching Overcome LaLonde’s Critique of Non-experimental Estimators?*”, Journal of Econometrics 2005, No. 125.

Hughes, Karl; Hutchings, Claire; “*Can We Obtain the Required Rigor Without Randomization? Oxfam GB’s Non-experimental Global Performance Framework*”, 3ie Working paper #13 2011

Cox-Edwards, Alejandra; Rodríguez-Oreggia, Eduardo; “*Remittances and Labor Force Participation in Mexico: An Analysis Using Propensity Score Matching*”, World Development 2009, Vol. 37, No. 5

Abadie, Alberto; Diamond, Alexis; Hainmueller, Jens; “*Synthetic Control Methods for Comparative Case Studies: Estimating the Effect of California’s Tobacco Control Program*”, Journal of the American Statistical Association 2010, Vol. 105, Issue 490

Abadie, Alberto; Gardezabal, Javier; “*The Economic Costs of Conflict: A Case Study of the Basque Country*”, AER March 2003

Honor code: The Oberlin College Honor Code applies to all assignments for this course. You can access complete information on the Honor Code via Blackboard (go to the tab Lookup/Directories>Honor Code). Before turning in each of your exams and your problem sets, you need to write the honor pledge and sign it. The pledge is as follows: “*I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.*” The exams are all closed book and closed notes. For the exams signing the honor pledge signifies that you have abided by those restrictions and neither given nor received aid during the exams.

You are encouraged to work on your problem sets in groups. However, if you do so each of you is required to clearly state with who you worked on that particular problem set. A failure to do so will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.

Students with Disabilities: If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities that require accommodations (such as a note taker or special testing arrangements), please let the instructor know early in the semester so your learning needs can be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to Ms. Jane Boomer, Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities. Her office is in Peters G-38A and her phone number is x58464.

Course outline:

Week 1: Introduction, Causes of Endogeneity & Simple Panel Data Methods

- W: Chapter 3.3: pgs. 89-94
- W: Chapter 9.4
- W: Chapter 16.1 & 16.2
- W: Chapter 13
- W: Chapter 17.5: pgs. 606-608
- Pritchett 96, pgs.6-14
- AJR 01: up to pg. 1377
- Clemens 07: pgs. 1-4 & 12-13

Week 2: Simple Panel Data Methods cont. & Advanced Panel Data Models

- W: Chapter 13
- W: Chapter 14

Week 3: Advanced Panel Data Models & IV Estimation

- W: Chapter 14
- W: Chapter 15
- SW: Chapter 8
- SW: Chapter 10

Presentations Thursday 02/19:

- Yang 08
- Duflo 01

Problem Set 1

Week 4: IV Estimation cont. & Simultaneous Equation Models

- W: Chapter 15
- W: Chapter 16

Week 5: Experimental vs. Non-Experimental Approaches

- SW: Chapter 11

Presentations Thursday 03/05:

- Pritchett 96
- AJR 01 & Albouy 08
- Clemens 07

Problem Set 2

Week 6: Regression Discontinuity Models

- Lee, Lemieux 2010

Presentations Thursday 03/12:

- Miguel, Kremer 04
- BDHM 07
- Bertrand, Mullainathan 03

Week 7: Review & Midterm

MIDTERM: Thu March 19 (Covering up to Experimental Methods).

Week 8: Matching Methods

- Cameron & Trivedi, Ch. 25, pgs. 860-878
- Heckjman, Ichimura, Todd (1997), pgs. 605-614
- Smith & Todd (2005), pgs. 310-320
- Hughes & Hutchings 2011

Presentations Thursday 04/02:

- BNPT 13
- Dell 2010

Week 9: Synthetic Control Methods

- Abadie, Diamond, Hainmueller 2010

Presentations Thursday 04/09:

- Abadie & Gardezabal 2003
- Cox-Edwards & Rodriguez-Oreggia 2009

Problem Set 3

Week 10: Introduction to MLE & Binary Dependent Variable Models (Probit & Logit)

- W: Chapter 17.1
- SW: Chapter 9

Week 11: Binary Dependent Variable Models cont.

- W: Chapter 17.1
- SW: Chapter 9

Week 12: The Tobit Model & Poisson Regression

- W: Chapter 17.2
- W: Chapter 17.3

Problem Set 4

Week 13: Censored and Truncated Regression & Sample Selection Corrections

- W: Chapter 17.4
- W: Chapter 17.5

FINAL EXAM: TBD whether Thur, May 14, 2:00-4:00pm or Take-Home