

Economics 9413 Research Workshop

Fall 2017

Instructor: Shawn Ni, Professional Building 118

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Office Hours: Monday 10-12 or by appointment

Meeting Time: F 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Room: SWITZLER HALL 101, although this is subject to change on days when class does not meet at the normal time.

Overview and related courses: This course is part of a two-year sequence for PhD students. This is the first semester for the second/third year PhD students and the third semester for the fourth year PhD students. The general purpose of this sequence is to introduce to you the practice of conducting scholarly economic research. This will be accomplished by going through the process of selecting a broad topic area, identifying the relevant literature, finding unresolved problems in the literature, structuring a statistical test on a proposed theory, and finally communicating your results through professional papers and oral presentations.

A major task for the second/third year students in this semester is to identify your research interests. In the beginning of the semester the class will be introduced to a general discussion on structural estimation with macro and micro data. You will then choose a research field and select a seminal paper as your primary paper. You need to do all additional work (e.g. reading supplemental materials and computer programming) needed to complete your written assignment and presentation pertaining to the primary paper. The fourth year students are expected to complete a draft of a working paper, building upon your work of the last year. Besides class meetings, the fourth year students will follow individually designed plans, depending on the progress made by the student. **The class meeting schedules for the second/third year and fourth year students will be handed out in the first week of class.**

Departmental Seminars: Students are expected to attend four departmental seminars during the semester when possible. These must be seminars organized by the Department of Economics in which faculty from MU or elsewhere, or applicants for MU faculty positions who are presenting papers. Seminars organized by other departments and student seminars do *not* meet this requirement. When you attend a seminar, it is your responsibility to sign a sheet indicating your attendance. Seminars are usually on Thursdays or Fridays. A preliminary seminar schedule is available on the Department of Economics website. Be aware that not all seminars may be listed in the current schedule; seminars may be added later in the semester, and other changes may occur as well.

Course requirements for the second/third year PhD students: Through the sequence of the research workshop in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, you are expected to

- (1) choose a research field, conduct literature review and present the literature review,
- (2) select a primary paper, write a technical summary on the primary paper and make seminar presentation of the paper,
- (3) write computer programs that replicate or modify the paper presented,
- (4) write a draft of research paper that contains literature review and your independent research.

In Fall 2017, your primary responsibilities will be (1) and (2), writing the technical summary of the primary paper and presenting the paper. In the next semester, your primary task will be (3) and (4). In addition, you are expected to study on the proper style of citing the existing literature and take an online test from the University library website. You should take the online test by the end of October. To take the test, go to

<http://mulibraries.missouri.edu/showmehow/avoidplagiarism/>

You can take the test multiple times until you get a perfect score. When you are finished with the test you will see a page that instructs you how to send the test result to me in email. Please follow the instruction and send the test score to me.

Presentation of the literature review (up to 30 minutes) will be in mid-October. **Presentation of the primary paper** will be during the last two weeks of the semester. The presentation will be similar to a job seminar, except that you are presenting someone else's work. Students should prepare to answer questions about the primary paper during the informal presentation of the technical summary. You will have 30 minutes for the presentation.

The class will be divided into two groups by field of interest. The third year students are required to attend arranged presentations of the fourth year students of your group.

Evaluation: Your grade this semester is based on:

Presentation of literature review	20 points
Written assignment of technical summary	15 points
Presentation of primary paper (judged by presentation, slides, and handling of questions)	35 points
Online test on style of writing and academic honesty concerning academic papers	10 points
Class participation and seminar attendance	20 points

For choice of primary paper, a sample of empirical papers based on macro- and micro theories will be provided by the instructor. More reference books and websites for computer program codes will also be provided. Students with specific topics in mind may discuss with the instructor for more choices of the primary paper.

Course requirements for the fourth year PhD students: Through the sequence of the research workshop in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018, you are expected to

- (1) present a mid-semester progress report,
- (2) hold regular meetings with the instructor on your working paper,
- (3) complete the working paper,
- (4) make a full length seminar presentation of the working paper in class.

In Fall 2017, your minimum requirement will be (1) and (2). You are expected to produce a draft of the paper that contains a summary of preliminary findings. During the semester, you will give a 40 minute presentation on the working paper. By the end of the academic year, you are expected to finish (1) to (4). Students who finished one paper will work on the next paper.

Evaluation: Your grade this semester is based on:

Presentation of progress report	15 points
Draft of working paper	35 points
Presentation (judged by presentation, slides, and handling of questions)	30 points
Seminar attendance and class participation	20 points

University Policies

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. This sample statement is posted on the web at: <http://provost.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus.html> and at <http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus.php>.

If disability-related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS EXAM ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

1. A disabled student who wants accommodations for an exam in Economics course must present the course instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) that documents the accommodations the student is entitled to receive. This should be done as early in the semester as possible.
2. For each accommodated exam, the student should bring the course instructor an Adaptive Examination Request Form from ODS. The course instructor is not required to accept such a request unless the student has first provided you with a Letter of Accommodation. ODS policies require that this form be provided to you at least 7 business days in advance for hourly examinations and by Thanksgiving Break (Spring Break) for fall (spring) final examinations.
3. The student section of the form must be properly filled out (including consistency with the Letter of Accommodation regarding the accommodations) and signed by the

student. The course instructor must fill out the instructor portion including a note in the SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS box and sign the form.

4. The white and pink copies of the form are given back to the student and the student must submit the white copy to ODS.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- A. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.
- B. Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to submitting examinations, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.
- C. Unauthorized possession of examinations or reserve library materials, or laboratory materials or experiments, or any other similar actions.
- D. Unauthorized changing of grades or markings on an examination or in an instructor's grade book or such change of any grade report.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PLEDGE: *"I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."* Students are expected to adhere to this pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so.

The University has specific academic dishonesty administrative procedures. Although policy states that cases of academic dishonesty must be reported to the Office of the Provost for possible action, the instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course, or may adjust the grade as deemed appropriate. The instructor also may require the student to repeat the assignment or to perform additional assignments. In instances where academic integrity is in question, faculty, staff and students should refer to Article VI of the Faculty Handbook. Article VI is also available in the M-Book. Article VI provides further information regarding the process by which violations are handled and sets forth a standard of excellence in our community.

INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM STATEMENT

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the MU Equity Office (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.