

# Economics 8413: Research Workshop I

**Time and Place:** Mondays 1-3:30PM Strickland Hall 306. The class does not meet every week, only as need. See the schedule below.

**Instructor:**

Saku Aura

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**This course uses Canvas**

## Class description

Economics 8413 is designed to help you write a research paper that is acceptable at the Master's level. For the most part, in this paper you will simply attempt to reproduce, and perhaps extend, a published empirical economics paper. Therefore your first task is to identify a suitable paper. Some important characteristics of such a paper are: 1) Its dataset must be publicly available; and 2) it must have a good data section, that allows you to understand what the author(s) approaches were. If you are unable to identify a suitable paper, I will help you with that. But note that being able to find a paper yourself is part of the skills graded in this class, therefore I prefer you to go through the exercise of finding a suitable paper yourself. I will discuss some approaches on how to do so in class.

## Your Master's Committee

Your master's committee will typically consist of three members: myself, as the instructor of Econ 8413, as your main advisor; the Director of Graduate Studies (currently, Prof. Xinghe Wang); and a third member appointed in consultation with Prof. Wang and myself. Exceptionally qualified and ambitious students who elect to write an original research paper will have a different committee, whose chair will be their main advisor. Those students should approach me very early in the semester to discuss this possibility. They may also take two semesters to do so, in which case I will assign a grade of Incomplete in the first semester. If you are in a dual degree (e.g. with Statistics) you will need to follow this route. Your typical committee would then have two professors from Economics and one from, say, Statistics.

## Grading

This class will use the +/- scale for grading. While the presentations and intermediate work products will have a marginal effect on your grade the overwhelmingly most important aspect is the quality of your final paper. The final paper will be judged based on:

1. The competence of your analysis/replication.
2. The exposition (writing, organization).

## Communication/Submissions in this class

Email and Canvas announcements will be the main form of communication in this class. Please make sure that you are receiving Canvas notification either immediately or at least daily from your personal Canvas settings (Account-Settings-Notifications).

All submissions (presentations/papers/code if requested) will also be made via Canvas.

## Schedule

Date	Topic	Requirement	Time for Each Student
January 22	Introduction		
January 29	Introduction to Stata and other methods	Optional, only if needed	
February 5	Idea Presentation. Describe your project.	No slides required	5 minutes
March 19	Progress report	Slides are encouraged, but not strictly required	10 minutes
April 16 and April 23	Final Paper and Presentation. Your final paper is due on April 16th regardless of the presentation date.	Slides and final paper	20 minutes
April 27	Defense forms due in the graduate school office		

## Academic Dishonesty

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.

## ADA

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.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the [Office of Disability Services](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

## Intellectual Pluralism

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](#); the [MU Equity Office](#), or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

## Intellectual Property Notice

All course materials including but not limited to the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack)

are property of the instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

## **Statement on Recording Classroom Interactions**

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of Section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.