

University of Missouri-Columbia
Department of Economics
ECON 9447: Advanced Empirical Methods II, Topics in Policy Analysis
 T/TH 11:00 am-12:15 pm
 Room TBD

Professor: Brittany Street
 Email: streetb@missouri.edu
 Office: Professional Bldg #222
 Office hours: T and TH 1-2 pm

Objectives: This course will train you in the current best practices of empirical microeconomics, focusing on policy evaluation.

Prerequisite(s): ECON 9446

Reading Material:

Recommended: Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricists Companion by Joshua Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke

Other readings for the course will be available through the Canvas page.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Coding Assignments: 30%
 Referee Report: 20%
 Seminar Participation: 10%
 Policy Analysis Proposals: 20%
 Final Exam: 25%

Tentative Course Schedule

Week & dates	Topic
1 Jan 18 Jan 20	Syllabus & Overview of course Overview Continued Motivation slides: https://twitter.com/jonpcohen/status/1375992944621142016 Data cleaning etc: https://twitter.com/KhoaVuUmn/status/1372590355309334531
2 Jan 25 Jan 27	Random Control Trials & Audit Studies
3 Feb 1 Feb 3	Regression Discontinuity Design https://twitter.com/nickchk/status/1068215504802787328
4 Feb 8 Feb 10	Regression Discontinuity Design continued https://twitter.com/KiraboJackson/status/1074062192037847040
5 Feb 15	Instrumental Variables

	Feb 17	Nick HK graphic: https://twitter.com/nickchk/status/1068215497626312704
	<i>Feb 21</i>	<i>Last day to drop without a grade</i>
6	Feb 22 Feb 24	Instrumental Variables continued
7	Mar 1 Mar 3	Difference-in-differences https://twitter.com/nickchk/status/1068215503762599936
8	Mar 8 Mar 10	Difference-in-differences continued https://twitter.com/nickchk/status/1103255875781685248
9	Mar 15 Mar 17	Triple Difference-in-differences Synthetic Control
10	Mar 22 Mar 24	Standard Errors and Inference Clustering, Permutation Inference & Bootstrapping & FDR
	<i>Mar 29 & Mar 30</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
11	Apr 5 Apr 7	Miscellaneous topics: weighting, composition, power calculations
12	Apr 12 Apr 14	Wrap-up class Seminar Speaker
13	Apr 19 Apr 21	Seminar Speaker from policy groups, industry, and government Seminar Speaker (e.g., U.S. Census, Mathematica, RAND Corporation)
14	Apr 26 Apr 28	Policy Analysis Proposals Policy Analysis Proposals
	May 2	Last day to withdraw
15	May 3 May 5	Policy Analysis Proposals Review
	May 11	Final Exam

ATTENDANCE/LATE ASSIGNMENTS/MISSED EXAMS/COVID-19:

Attendance is not mandatory but highly recommended. If you miss class, please arrange to get notes from a classmate. I will use Panopto as a last resort back up option, but technical issues happen and may not be reliably available, particularly for discussion-based lectures. Late assignments will not be accepted without a university excused absence or speaking with me first to arrange for special circumstances. Make-up exams will be arranged for students with approved absences or circumstances that prevented taking the exam as scheduled. Make-up exams may be in an alternative format and will be based on the same material but will be new questions and content.

If there are any concerns or issues throughout the semester, please meet with me; I want to be as accommodating as possible as this is a difficult time for everyone. To that end, if childcare falls through for some reason, please feel free to bring your child to class for that day. This is not meant to be a regular solution, but these things are bound to come up and I am happy to welcome a visitor to the class. Please just sit near an exit so that you can exit if necessary with minimal disruptions.

ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES

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 establish an accommodation plan with the [MU Disability Center](#), S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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.

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.

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

ACADEMIC INQUIRY, COURSE DISCUSSION, AND PRIVACY

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 not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation under section 240.040 of the Collected Rules. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity 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.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the

course 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.

TITLE IX

University of Missouri policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, genetic information, disability and protected veteran status. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

If you experience discrimination, you are encouraged (but not required) to report the incident to the MU Office for Civil Rights & Title IX. Learn more about your rights and options at civilrights.missouri.edu or call 573-882-3880. You also may make an anonymous report online.

Students may also contact the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for advocacy and other support related to rape or power-based personal violence at rsvp@missouri.edu or 573-882-6638, or go to rsvp.missouri.edu.

Both the [Office for Civil Rights & Title IX](#) and the [RSVP Center](#) can provide assistance to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues.

ADDITIONAL TITLE IX INFORMATION:

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having survived sexualized violence, including rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking Mizzou policies require that, as your instructor, I share this information with Ellen Eardley, MU Title IX Administrator. Ellen or her trusted colleague will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at MU as well as options for holding accountable the person who harmed you. **You are not required to speak with them.**

If you do not want the Title IX Administrator notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus and in the community. They can connect you with support services and help explore your options now, or in the future.

- MU Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center: rsvp.missouri.edu - (573)882-6638
- MU Counseling Center: counseling.missouri.edu - (573)882-6601
- MU Behavioral Health: studenthealth.missouri.edu/services/mental.html - (573)882-1483
- True North (24/7 crisis center and shelter): truenorthofcolumbia.org - (800)548-2480

If you are a survivor or someone concerned about a survivor and need immediate information on what to do, please go to RSVP.missouri.edu/get-help.