

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
 Locust Street Building, E204B

Professor: Brittany Street

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Office: Locust Street Building, E227

Office hours: T/Th TBD

Zoom link: <https://umsystem.zoom.us/j/95228864689> (must be signed into MU account)

Objectives: This course will train you in the current best practices of empirical microeconomics, focusing on policy evaluation covering Randomized Control Trials (RCTs), Regression Discontinuity Designs (RDDs), Instrumental Variables (IVs), and Difference-in-Differences (DiDs) along with special topics (e.g., standard errors, weighting, power calculations). Specifically, students will learn the fundamentals including strengths and weaknesses, how to create and present the empirical evidence, and how to replicate each approach.

Prerequisite(s): ECONOM 9446 (may be waived with instructor approval)

Reading Material:

The majority of the class will focus on reading journal articles which will be available through the Canvas page.

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

Course Requirements and Grading:

Coding Assignments: 40%

Referee Report: 10%

Policy Analysis Proposals: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Tentative Course Schedule

Week & dates	Topic
1 Jan 17 Jan 19	Syllabus & Overview of course Overview Continued
2 Jan 24 Jan 26	Random Control Trials & Audit Studies
3 Jan 31 Feb 2	Regression Discontinuity Design
4 Feb 7 Feb 9	Regression Discontinuity Design continued
5 Feb 14 Feb 16	Instrumental Variables
	Feb 20 <i>Last day to drop without a grade</i>
6 Feb 21 Feb 23	Instrumental Variables continued
7 Feb 28	Difference-in-differences

	Mar 2	
8	Mar 7 Mar 9	Difference-in-differences continued
9	Mar 14 Mar 16	Triple Difference-in-differences
10	Mar 21 Mar 23	Synthetic Control <i>No Class</i>
	Mar 28 Mar 30	<i>Spring Break</i>
11	Apr 4 Apr 6	Standard Errors and Inference Clustering, Permutation Inference & Bootstrapping & FDR
12	Apr 11 Apr 13	Miscellaneous topics: weighting, composition, power calculations
13	Apr 18 Apr 20	Wrap-up class Seminar Speaker
14	Apr 25 Apr 27	Seminar Speaker from policy groups, industry, and government Seminar Speaker (e.g., U.S. Census, Mathematica, RAND Corporation)
	May 1	Last day to withdraw
15	May 2 May 4	Policy Analysis Proposals Review
	May 11 12:30 – 2:30 pm	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. 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 will cover the same content but may be in an alternative format.

If there are any concerns or issues throughout the semester, please meet with me. Masks are not required in class, but I will bring one with me and wear it if a student is wearing one and wants to talk with me after class or in office hours. Please do **not** come to class if you are sick or feverish. You are welcome to bring your child to class if childcare falls on a class 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

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.

MENTAL HEALTH

The University of Missouri is committed to supporting student well-being through an integrated network of care, with a wide range of services to help students succeed. The MU Counseling Center offers professional mental health care, and can help you find the best approach to treatment based on your needs. Call to make an appointment at 573-882-6601. Any student in crisis may call or go to the MU Counseling Center between 8:00-5:00 M-F. After hours phone support is available at 573-882-6601.

Visit our website at <https://wellbeing.missouri.edu/> to take an online mental health screening, find out about workshops and resources that can help you thrive, or learn how to support a friend. Download Sanvello, a phone app that teaches skills and strategies to help you maintain good mental health. Log in with your Mizzou e-mail to unlock all the tools available through Sanvello at no additional cost to you.

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.