

# Applications in Microeconomics

## Econ 201

### Spring 2017

Overview

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Ph.D in Economics from The Ohio State  
University, OH

# After today's class you will

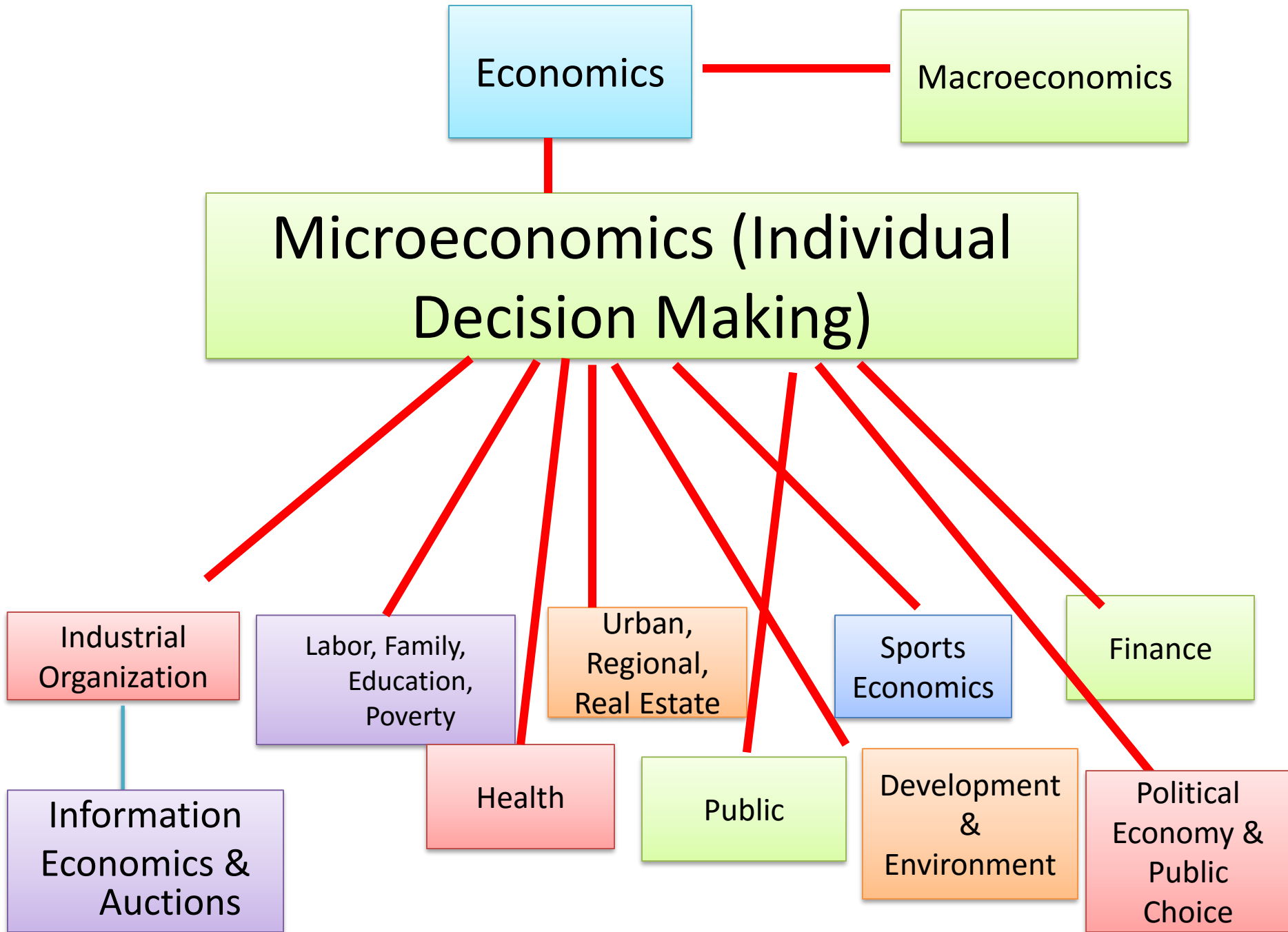
- Get to know the instructor, TA and other students
- Understand the learning objectives of this class
- Get the key policies regarding assignments and exams, including **deadlines** & strategies to success
- Assess where you stand regarding economic theory, empirical analysis

# My Contact Information

- Office: Engineering 2, Rm # 453
- Office Hour: **Wednesday 4:40 pm – 5:10 pm & 6:55 p.m. – 8:25 p.m.** (or by appointment)
- E-Mail: [susaha@ucsc.edu](mailto:susaha@ucsc.edu)
- Teaching Assistant: Jijian Fan
- [jifan@ucsc.edu](mailto:jifan@ucsc.edu)

# Learning Objectives

- Understand the scope and limitations of canonical models in Economics
- Develop ability to read academic work
- Be proficient at solving for (& interpret) parametric solution & algebraically/numerically conduct comparative statics
- Critically assess identification strategies
- Deeply understand a topic to form a question and hypothesis
- Give comments to a scholarly work
- Create a presentation
- Zero in on a question for future research by making the research project tangible



# Required Course Materials

- Class Lecture notes to be posted by 2PM on day of lecture – print and bring to class
- Academic Papers: JSTOR, Journal Website Through Library on **Labor Econ, economics of education, development economics/ poverty, sports economics, economics of crime**, industrial organization
- Econlit: through Library Research Databases
- Papers will be posted in canvas
- Laptop: excel; problem sets may have problems which you can answer using STATA or R
- **non-programming** and **non-graphing** calculator in class and exams (no cell phones please!)

# Papers on the following Topics

- Effect of Hurricanes
- Immigration
- Min Wages
- Returns to Education
- Grade Inflation
- Workplace Discrimination
- Penalty kicks (soccer)
- Tournament Structure and Effort (tennis)
- Patent/FDA
- Poverty Trap

# Additional Materials

- Hold on to any Econometrics/Micro text books you may have from past quarters (Econ 200, Econ 216)
- Freakonomics: The new kind of labor (read: empirical) economics
- New Idea from Dead Economists
- Nobel Laureates (web site)



# Grading Policy: No Make Up, No Late Work

Assessed Area – Intermediate Microeconomics	Share of the total
• Daily quizzes & Problem Sets (April 26, May 24, June 7)	5%
• Section Participation (one per week)	3%
• Midterm Exam 1 May 3 Wed	30%
• Midterm Exam 2 May 31 Wed	30%
• Final Research Project	32%
• TOTAL	100%

Final Research Project	Breakdown
• Creating a literature May 17 – Hard Copy (follow guideline)	2%
• Referee Report – June 14 5PM email TA (follow guideline) 2 pages minimum; pdf	10%
• Presentation PowerPoint – June 14 5 PM email TA (follow guideline) 15 slides minimum; pdf	5%
• Literature Review & Proposal – June 14 5 PM email TA (guideline to be posted) 5 pages minimum; pdf	15%
• TOTAL	32%

# Research Project

- To Create a literature : 4 articles centered around a question
- <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>
- Pick articles from journals between **ranking 1 –70** ].
- Look at scholarly articles published in the **last 10 – 17 years** but not any earlier.
- Writing a Referee Report
- Write a Presentation
- Write a Literature Review with a Proposal

# Guide to Literature Review

- What important questions have been addressed by the literature?
- What are the answers given by scholars in the literature?
- What do you see are important questions not answered by the literature?
- Which answers make sense, which answers do not?
- What would you propose to carry this literature forward?

# Guide to Proposal

- This is where you detail the question you want to answer
- What dataset would you use?
- What would be the variables?
- What is the estimation equation?
- How will your estimates be identified?
- Approach 1) Adding bells and whistles to existing work
- Approach 2) Original Idea

# Syntax of the name of files to be emailed to TA

- 3 files need to be emailed per person
- “last name\_First Initial\_Referee Report”, “last name\_First Initial\_Presentation”, “last name\_First Initial\_Proposal”.
- Example: “Saha\_S\_Referee Report”, “Saha\_S\_Presentation”, “Saha\_S\_Proposal”

# Problem Sets

- 3 Problem Sets
- Big on intuition, Graphing, interpretation and calculations
- Will ask few STATA based questions
- You can also answer them in R

# Capstone Comprehensive Exam

- **Tuesday/Thursday, June 27/29 Time: TBA**
- I will write the questions – they will mimic the questions in Problem Sets and Mid Term Exams
- Dr Alan Spearot will have extra office hours after this course is over if you have questions about this comprehensive capstone exam
- I will grade your performance!

# TA Section(s)

- Please attend the section meeting – 3%
- Jijian can be a huge help to you
- He will help you with the mathematical problems we will be doing in class.
- He will help you with mathematical & other parts of the problem sets
- He will go over problem set and mid term exam answers for you
- He will go over the guidelines for the Research Project



# Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center

(DRC) <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Fall Session. Contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu) for more information.

I'd strongly recommend announcing a minimum lead time of 7-days advance notice for students who have been authorized for testing accommodations to advise you and the Economics Department contact, Sandra Reebie, if the student would like to utilize the testing accommodation. Any less lead time than that, poses tall challenges to Sandy's ability to find a test proctor.

## **Academic Misconduct**

<http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic-integrity>

# Read Before Next Class (Canvas: Papers)

- Paper 1.1 - Economic Impact of Natural Disasters
- Weekend Reading
- Paper 1.2 - Let us take the con out of Econometrics- Ed Lemar
- Optional – Paper 1.3 Design of Observational Studies - Rosenbaum –Chapter 1: Dilemmas and Craftsmanship

**Ask another person (preferably someone you have not talked to before):**

1. Name

2. What are your future employer/destination – academia (Ph.D)? MBA? Work in Econ Think tanks? Work at Banks or other financial Institutions? Work at International Organizations?