

ECON 201 Applications in Microeconomics

Instructor & Course Information

- Instructor: Subhra B. Saha
- Course: ECN 201: Applications in Microeconomics
- Location: Physical Sciences, Room # 140
- Class Time: Monday, Wednesday 5:20 PM – 6:55 PM
- Learning Management System [LMS henceforth]: Canvas
- Office: Engineering 2, Rm 453; Phone: [831 459-2647](tel:8314592647).
- Office Hours: **Wednesday 4:40 pm – 5:10 pm & 6:55 p.m. – 8:25 p.m. (i.e. after class)** or by appointment; E-Mail: susaha@ucsc.edu
- TA: Jijian Fan; TAE-mail: jifan@ucsc.edu ; TA Office Hour: To be Decided; Section (1 per week): To be decided (Tentatively Wednesday afternoon)
- **Capstone Class:** Comprehensive exam on the topics covered on June 27 or June 29 (3 hours). Dr Alan Spearot will handle the office hours for this exam.

Course Description & Objectives

This course intends to introduce students to a variety of policy relevant topics from the principal sub-fields of microeconomics such as labor economics, economics of education, development economics, industrial organization, sports economics etc. This course will expose students to policy relevant scholarly work in economics. Students will also get a sense of applying economic theory to analyze effectiveness of policies. Empirical work relying on regression analysis and computational methods will be used in the class. We will give priority to understand the identification strategy used in the paper to understand if the effects are causal. Econ 200 and Econ 216 are strongly recommended as a prerequisite for this course.

Course Materials: Required

This course uses academic papers, which are available on **JSTOR** or the **journal website through the UCSC library** for free. You need to be proficient in using **Econlit** to find scholarly articles in Economics. It is recommended that you select articles and topics from top economics journals such as **American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Human Resources, etc** [Use the following as a guide: <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html>; pick articles from journals between **ranking 1 –70**]. It would be nice to look at scholarly articles published in the **last 10 – 17 years** but not any earlier. Please bring & use a **non-programming** and **non-graphing** calculator in class & exams. Review materials taught in your earlier Microeconomics and Econometrics classes before coming to this class.

Evaluation Instruments & Grading Policy:

- Daily quizzes & Problem Sets (5%)
- Section Participation (3%)
- Midterm Exam 1 (30%)
- Midterm Exam 2 (30%)
- Final Research Project (32%):
 - Find a topic, find a question inside that topic, assemble 4 recent papers in top journals on the question to create a literature (2%). Follow the guide to creating a literature. Due in class by **May 17, 2017 (Wed)**
 - Write a “Referee Report (10%)” on **one paper** you want to present (this cannot be a survey paper & follow the guide to writing a referee report: **maximum 2 pages; pdf**).
 - Create a power point style presentation based on the paper that you did a referee report on (5%) (You do not have to present, but create this document as if you are presenting! Follow the guide to creating presentations: **minimum 15 slides; pdf**)
 - Literature Review & Proposal for future work in the literature (15%) (Should be written in your own words; **minimum 5 pages; pdf**)
 - Email Referee Report, Presentation and Proposal (including the Literature Review) to TA by 5 PM of **Thursday June 14th, 2017; 5 PM**.

Academic Integrity

All work submitted for this class **must be your own**. Collaboration on assignments is highly encouraged, but the answers you submit must be in your own words and based on your own understanding. Copying answers

or computer code is a violation of university policy. For more information on academic integrity at UC Santa Cruz, please see the following link: <http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic-integrity>

Course Topics and Tentative Course Schedule

Week # & Dates	Topics (Readings in Canvas)	Submissions in class/email
Week 1: April 3; April 5	Basic Labor Market Equilibrium; Applied Empirical Work Foundations	
Week 2: April 10; April 12	Supply & Demand for Labor; Immigration	
Week 3: April 17; April 19	Labor Market Equilibrium; Estimating Demand for Labor	
Week 4: April 24; April 26	Returns to Education, Minimum Wages	Submit PS 1 to TA April 26
Week 5: May 1; May 3	PS Answers, Wrap Up & Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam 1 May 3 Wed
Week 6: May 8; May 10	Midterm 1 Exam Answers Labor Market Discrimination	
Week 7: May 15; May 17	Education Economics: Grade Inflation, Economic Analysis of Crime	Finalize Research Project papers – to TA May 17 (Wed): Hard Copy
Week 8: May 22; May 24	Sports Economics Problem Set Answers, Wrap Up & Midterm 2 Exam	Submit PS 2 to TA May 24
Week 9: May 29; May 31 May 29 (Mon) no class Memorial Day		Mid Term Exam 2 May 31 Wed
Week 10: June 5; June 7	Midterm 2 Exam Answers; Development Economics & Wrap Up	Submit PS 3 to TA
Week 11: June 14 Final Exam Week		Submit Research Project to TA email, by THURSDAY June 14; 5 PM – Late work will NOT be accepted

For 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 for more information.

Note: 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 Reebe, 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.