**Health Econometrics I**

**HAD 5744**

**Fall 2022**

**Instructor**: Alex Hoagland, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Health Economics, IHPME

155 College Street, Suite 440

[alexander.hoagland@utoronto.ca](mailto:alexander.hoagland@utoronto.ca)

**Class time and location**: Fridays, 1pm-3pm.

**Office hours:** Book appointments at [calendly.com/Hoagland-office-hours/had5744-2022f](https://www.calendly.com/Hoagland-office-hours/had5744-2022f)

* In-person: Fridays, 9:00-11:00am.
* Zoom: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00am-10:30am (or by appointment) XXX zoom link

**Course Description:** This course introduces econometric methods used in the social sciences and statistical analyses more broadly. The principles of model development and testing covered underlie much of applied health economics, applied health policy, and health services research. In many applications, researchers want to understand a process by which data and outcomes are generated; however, many data generating processes (DGPs) are possible given observed data. This course deals with how to determine *which* DGPs, and hence which “story”, has generated your data. The course uses applications of statistical tests and procedures in the context of distinguishing between models and explores the applications of a range of frameworks to the types of questions addressed by social scientists and health services researchers. It is assumed that students have a basic (graduate) training in statistics.

**Evaluation Criteria**

* Assignments: 3 assignments, each worth 20% of the final grade.
* Major Paper: worth 40% of the final grade.

Assignments are to be completed using R or STATA. Assignments and data sets will be posted on the course website. Due dates are listed on the schedule below. The assignments **must be submitted via Quercus and email** before class on the due date; late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day. Please submit your assignment with the file name “Econometrics\_AssignmentX\_LastName” (e.g., X = 1, 2, 3).

Major paper**:** The paper will provide students with an opportunity to undertake an investigation of a research question of their own choosing on a relatively self-contained topic within the fields of health economics or health services research. The writing of the report will help students with their written communication skills and familiarize them with the structure of journal manuscripts. **Students are expected to pair up in groups of either two or three to produce a paper.**

If the students do not already have access to a working data set, they can use publicly available survey data. For example, there are public use files for the Canadian Community Health Survey or CCHS along with a wide range of other health related surveys available for download through the University of Toronto Data Liberation Initiative at CHASS <(http://sda.chass.utoronto.ca/).>

Students will hand in an outline of their major paper due October 21. The major paper must include a brief introduction and literature review, description of data, variables, methods employed as well econometric results, discussion and conclusion. Information about any statistical testing results should also be included. The paper should be presented in the form of a journal manuscript. The final paper is due December XXX

**Software**: We will make use of R and RStudio. You do not need a license for R or RStudio and it can be downloaded for free at <https://www.r-project.org/> and <https://rstudio.com/>. You will be provided with materials to help you familiarize yourselves with R. Learning R or any program for the first time can be frustrating. Sometimes you can get really bogged down from not knowing a simple command or syntax. This is normal, and part of the learning process. The best way to learn is by relying on the built-in help functions, online short tutorials, class participation or by taking a short course. I am happy to respond to specific questions during the office hours and during class.

Please note that R is only one software that can perform the analyses we will cover in class; you are free to use your preferred choice of statistical software. If you want to use STATA you can purchase a one-year license for US $125 through Stata’s Grad Plan: <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/>. To learn more on how to use STATA you can refer to the website FAQs (<http://www.stata.com/support/faqs/>), the links posted on the “Resources for learning STATA” website (<http://www.stata.com/links/resources1.html>). There are a number of Stata instructional videos on YouTube.

An introductory 2-hour R session will be offered on XXX and an introductory session on STATA will be offered on XXX by the Canadian Centre for Health Economics (CCHE) as part of the CCHE Friday seminar series:10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Registration for sessions: XXX). Students are strongly encouraged to attend these sessions.

**Required texts:** Both books have a free e-book version or are relatively cheap buys on Amazon. I *highly* recommend owning print copies if you plan to pursue applied research – they are both very handy.

* “[The Effect](https://theeffectbook.net/),” Nick Huntington-Klein (NHK).
* [“Causal Inference: The Mixtape,”](https://mixtape.scunning.com/) Scott Cunningham (SC).

**Additional (non-required) reading:**

* “Principles of Econometrics, 5th edition”, R. Carter Hill, William E. Griffiths and Guay C. Lim (HGL).

**Course Readings** are listed on the schedule below. Students are expected to have read these prior to class. In addition to the course text, readings will be posted on the course webpage.

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Session #** | **Date** | **Lecture / Readings**  *Recommended readings in italics* | **Assignments Due** |
| 1 | Sep. 9 | **Econometric Philosophies: DAGs and Potential Outcomes**   * SC Introduction, Chapters 2-3 (up to p. 148) * *HK, Chapters 1-9 (very helpful foundations for those interested)* * *HGL, Chapter 1* |  |
| 2 | Sep. 16 | **Probability + Coding Review, Univariate OLS**   * SC, Chapter 1 (up to page 58) * HK, Chapter 4 * *HGL, Chapters 2-3* |  |
| 3 | Sep. 23 | **Multivariate OLS I: Setup & Inference**   * SC, Chapter 1 (pg 63-95) * HK, Chapter 12-13 (pg. 175-200) * *HGL, Chapter 4-5* |  |
| 4 | Sep. 30 | **Multivariate OLS II: Additional Topics**   * HK, Chapter 13 (pg. 201-266) * *HGL, Chapter 6-8 (omit from section 7.5.1 to end of chapter)* |  |
| 5 | Oct. 7 | **Matching Methods**   * SC, Chapter 4 * HK, Chapter 14 * *Gordon et al. (2022). “*[*Comparison of Postpartum Health Care Use and Spending Among Individuals with Medicaid-Paid Births Enrolled in Continuous Medicaid vs Commercial Insurance*](C://Users/alexh/Downloads/gordon_2022_oi_220121_1647021119.49674.pdf)*,” JAMA Network Open.* * *Vozoris et al., (2022) “*[*Cannabis use and risks of respiratory and all-cause morbidity and mortality: a population-based, data-linkage, cohort study*](https://bmjopenrespres.bmj.com/content/bmjresp/9/1/e001216.full.pdf)*,” BMJ Open Respiratory Research* | Assignment 1 due |
| 6 | Oct. 14 | **Instrumental Variables and Moment-Based Estimation**   * HK, Chapter 19 * SC, Chapter 7 * *HK, Chapter 9 (more theory on front-door approaches)* * *HGL, Chapter 10-11* * *Cutler, David M. And Edward L. Glaeser (2007): Social Interactions and Smoking National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 13477, October* |  |
| 7 | Oct. 21 | **Binary Outcome Variables (Logit and Probit)**   * *HGL, Chapter 16* * Ettner, Susan L. (1996): “New Evidence on the Relationship Between Income and Health” Journal of Health Economics 15, 67-85 * Chunrong Ai and Edward Norton (2003). Interaction terms in logit and probit models. Economic Letters 80: 123-129 | Major paper outline due |
| 8 | Oct. 28 | **Count Data Models, Hurdle Models, and Sample Selection**   * *HGL, Chapter 16* * *WH Dow and EC Norton (2003): “Choosing Between and Interpreting the Heckit and Two-Part Models for Corner Solutions” Health Serv Outcomes Res Methodol. 4(1): 5–18.* | Assignment 2 due |
| 9 | Nov. 4 | **Difference in Difference Regression**   * *HGL, Chapter 7 - from section 7.5* |  |
| 10 | Nov. 18 | **Quantile Regression and a brief introduction to panel data estimation (TWFE?)**   * *Laporte, A. Karimova, A. and Ferguson, B. (2010). Quantile regression analysis of the rational addiction model: investigating heterogeneity in forward-looking behavior." Health Economics, 19(9): 1063-1074.* * *HGL, Chapter 15* * *Primer on Panel Data Analysis: Fixed & Random Effects using STATA, Princeton University. 1996..* |  |
| 11 | Nov. 25 | * **Topics: Synthetic Control, Simulation & Bayesian Methods** | Assignment 3 due |
| 12 | Dec. 2 | **Heterogeneous Treatment Effects, Under the Rug**   * (OLS, TWFE, Propensity Score) |  |