Course Syllabus
ED 945
ADVANCED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMETRIC APPLICATIONS TO EDUCATION RESEARCH II

Instructor: Barbara Schneider
Teaching Assistant: Elizabeth Quinn
Spring 2013
Mondays 3:00-5:50 pm
Room Number: 452 Erickson Hall

Overview: This is the second part of a two-course sequence designed to provide students with the theories and econometric techniques used in education research and policy analyses. In many ways this is an applied extension of the topics discussed in the first semester including human capital theory and education production functions. In addition to these topics this course will examine how education economists use a variety of designs including experiments and quasi-experiments to assess the effectiveness of specific policies including: changes in high school graduation requirements; incentives such as payments for improving achievement, grades, and postsecondary attendance and persistence; and implementation of polices for determining teacher quality.

Based on the proposal developed in the fall course students will be required to: (1) describe the approach or analysis plan for the research study; (2) conduct an analysis of the data set described in the proposal; (3) prepare a set of tables and interpretation of results; and (4) discuss the empirical findings including limitations and implications for policy. Each of these sections will be combined into a final original research paper due at the conclusion of the course.

Office Hours: Tuesday mornings 7:30 am through noon.

Requirements:

(1) Class participation. Students are expected to attend class regularly, read all assigned papers prior to class and participate in class discussions. Class participation will account for approximately 20 percent of the final grade including suggestions to the presentations described below.

(2) Presentations. Students will be responsible for presenting in an oral and written format all four of the sections of their research paper. An average equally weighted will be calculated for all four sections and account for 30 percent of the final grade.

(3) Paper. By the end of the course students will produce an original paper formatted for a journal (including four to five tables, 5000 words, not counting references and footnotes). The paper will account for 50 percent of the final grade.
Other Details:
Students with disabilities: Reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities will be made available. Please feel free to speak with us if there are issues of which we should be aware.

Academic Honesty and Integrity: Students are assumed to be honest, and course work is assumed to represent the student’s own work. Violations of the academic integrity policy such as cheating, plagiarism, selling course assignments or academic fraud are grounds for academic action and/or disciplinary sanction as described in the University’s student conduct code.

Incidents of Plagiarism: They will be taken very seriously and will be pursued. Students are strongly cautioned not to copy any text verbatim without appropriate quotations and source citations.

For University regulations on academic dishonesty and plagiarism please refer to: http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/plagiarism.html

Class Meeting Paper Assignments:

Jan 7 Introduction to the course including an overview of journal writing and econometric methods. Students are encouraged to bring in their proposals and be prepared to discuss their ideas. Students who wish to change topics may do so with the approval of the instructor.

Jan 14 Review of econometric methods used in education. For the meeting on Jan 28 be prepared with an article that most closely resembles what you will investigating and how your approach is similar and dissimilar.

Jan 28 Discuss approach including hypotheses; identification issues; counterfactual considerations.

Feb 4 Review datasets being used in the papers. Approach section of paper is due. This includes a rationale for why a particular approach.

Feb 11 Review of analytic models. Be prepared to discuss sample and variable selections used in your paper.

Feb 18

Feb 25 Analytic section of the paper is due. This includes sample selection, instruments and measures.
March 11    Begin sharing model equations and results

March 18

March 25    **Result section of the paper is due.**

April 1     What belongs in the discussion section?

April 8

April 15    **Discussion section of the paper is due.**

April 22

April 29    **Final paper is due.**
Reading List

Part I. Human Capital Effects of Gender and Economic Resources

January 7


January 28


February 4


February 11

**Part 2. Educational Expectations, Attainment and Fixed Effects**

**February 18**


**February 25**

The Missing One offs

**March 11**


**Part 3. Experiments**

**March 18**


March 25


April 1


April 8 Teacher labor markets and teacher quality


**April 15**


**April 22**

