In this class you will be introduced to a reasonably wide selection of papers across different areas of empirical microeconomics. The focus of the class will be on describing the identification strategies used by the authors and assessing their success.

Course Requirements:

(1) Class Participation (35 percent). You should carefully read the assigned papers prior to each meeting and come prepared to participate in a discussion. This means that you will be expected to analyze the empirical problems encountered by the authors and the extent to which they are successful in solving those problems. You will also be expected to submit short research proposals every week outlining a new research idea and how you would hope to implement it.

(2) Discussion Leader (10 percent). You will be expected to lead the class discussion on at least two of the papers on the reading least below. In this role, you are expected to think more deeply than usual about the identification strategy used in the paper and any problems not addressed in a convincing way and suggest improvements.

(3) Referee Reports (20 percent). You will be expected to briefly summarize the important (purported) contributions of a paper assigned by me and provide constructive criticism of the paper.

(4) Final Exam (35 percent).

Grading Scale:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0% +</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0 – 89.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 – 79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60%</td>
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Cheating Policy: An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do. Violations of the honor code will result in a grade of 0 on that exam and a referral to the Honor System Office. See http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/ for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit http://disability.tamu.edu.
Reading List

Methodological Papers


Children


Crime


**Education**


**Health**


**Industrial Organization**


**Institutions and Development**


**Labor Market Discrimination and Labor Supply**


**Macroeconomics and Banking**


**Media and Political Economy**


**Social Policy & Social Capital**
