

Economics 8676- Labor Economics 1
Spring 2016
MW 11-12:15 ECON 5

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Office Hours: M 1:30-3, Th 10-11:30, and by appt

Course Description

This is a graduate survey course in labor economics. The first 4 weeks of class will be a mini-course in applied econometric tools. The remaining 11 weeks of the semester will cover 3 key topic areas in labor economics: labor supply, human capital, and demographic economics.

A primary goal of this course is to teach you to read and understand papers beyond the superficial “introduction and conclusion” summary. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss approximately 20 papers in class. Using the attached schedule, you are expected to bring a copy of the paper on the appropriate day, to have read the paper prior to class, and to be prepared to answer questions regarding the content of the paper if asked to do so.

There will be 3 problems sets.

The tentative schedule for the problem sets is:

PS#1- Differences-in-Differences, Panel Data, due 1/29

PS#2- Instrumental Variables, Labor Supply Due 2/12

PS#3- Measurement Error, Limited Dependent Variables, Due 3/4

Stafford, Tess. 2015. "What do Fishermen Tell Us that Taxi Drivers Don't? An Empirical Investigation of Labor Supply" *Journal of Labor Economics* 33(3) 683-710.

2/24 Midterm

III. Human Capital

2/29- Human Capital Model

3/2-3/30

4/11 and after-

Goldin, Claudia and Lawrence Katz. 2002. "The Power of the Pill: Oral Contraceptives and Women's Career and Marriage Decisions." *Journal of Political Economy*