Winter 2018: Mondays 3 – 5:50pm, Room TBD

Instructor: Rupa Datta
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312-759-4219
Office Hours: Mondays 2-3 pm

TAs: TBD

Course goals: To introduce students to program evaluation and provide an overview of current issues and methods for estimating treatment impacts.

Prerequisites: PP31000 and PP31100 or equivalent coursework in statistics and economic theory. Students lacking these prerequisites should seek permission from the instructor.

Requirements and grading: Grades will be based on class-participation, four assignments, a midterm, and a final exam. Class participation will count for 10 percent, assignments will count for a total of 20 percent; the midterm will count for 30 percent, and the final exam will count for 40 percent.

Problem sets: Late problem sets will not be accepted. Each assignment will receive an equal weight of 5 percent each. You may work together with up to 4 students and should submit one assignment per group. Your problem sets must be typed.

Exams: For both the midterm and final exams, you will read a set of evaluation articles and then critique them according to a set of question with which you will be provided. You must do your own work and may not discuss the exams with anyone in writing your responses. Your exams must be typed.
**Readings:** There is no required textbook for this class, but you may find it useful to refer to a standard econometrics text such as *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, by Jeffrey Wooldridge. Each lecture will make reference to a number of relevant research articles which are listed below. They will be made available through the course website.

**Tentative List of Lecture Topics and Deadlines (subject to adjustments):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/8</td>
<td>Evaluation and selection problems</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Treatment parameters</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/15</td>
<td><strong>No class (MLK Day)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Social Experiments I</td>
<td>Assignment #1 due W 1/24</td>
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<td>1/29</td>
<td>Social Experiments II</td>
<td>Assignment #2 due M 2/5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>Panel Data</td>
<td>Assignment #3 due M 2/19</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/12</td>
<td>Critiquing Evaluations</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/19</td>
<td>Instrumental Variables</td>
<td>Take-home Midterm</td>
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<td>Available M 2/19; Submit F 2/23</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Regression Discontinuity</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>Matching</td>
<td>Problem Set #4 due M 3/5</td>
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<td>Take-home Final</td>
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<td>Available Th 3/8; Submit W 3/14</td>
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Reading List

1. Evaluation and Selection Problems


2. Treatment Parameters


3. Social Experiments


4. Panel Data


5. **Evaluation of Evaluations**


6. **Instrumental Variables**


7. **Regression Discontinuity**


8. Matching
