Meeting: Winter 2019: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 am -11:00 am

Instructor: Kara Ross Camarena, karaross@uchicago.edu
TBD Keller Center, Harris School
Office hours: TBD

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 5 problem sets and a final exam. Problem sets will count for a total of 70% and the final exam will count for 30%.

Problem sets: Problem sets must be submitted electronically and late problem sets will not be accepted. Problem sets must be typed. Each assignment will receive equal weight. You may ask classmates, the TA’s, or Harris’ Stata and R consultants for help with the problem sets, but you must do your own work. Copying the work of another student is cheating, as is allowing another student to copy yours. Please see Academic Honesty below.

Final exam: For the final exam, you will read a set of evaluation articles and then critique them according to a set of question with which you will be provided. The articles and questions will be made available on the last day of class. The exam itself is take-home, with the answers due by TBD. You must do your own work and may not discuss the exam with anyone before the time it is due. Your exam must be typed and must be submitted electronically on Canvas.

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. Other useful references include Joshua Angrist and Joern Steffen Pischke’s Mostly Harmless Econometrics and Richard Blundell and Monica Costa Dias. 2009. “Alternative Approaches to Evaluation in Empirical Microeconomics,” Journal of Human Resources 44 (3). Each lecture will make reference to a number of relevant research articles. Articles will be on Canvas.
**Academic Honesty:** The Harris School has a formal policy on academic honesty that you are expected to adhere to. Examples of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) turning in someone else's work as your own, copying solutions to past years' problem sets, and receiving any unapproved assistance on exams. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. At a minimum, I will give zeroes on any assignments that include cheating and will strike the highest overall problem set score of any student who has cheated. I will also refer all cases of cheating to the Dean of Students office, which may impose further penalties, per the Harris School Disciplinary Procedures, such as probation and expulsion. If you have any questions regarding what would or would not be considered academic dishonesty in this course, please do not hesitate to ask me.

**Topics and Readings (subject to adjustments):**

1. **Evaluation and Selection Problems**  


2. **Treatment Parameters**  
   Blundell and Dias, section II


3. **Instrumental Variables**  

Blundell and Dias, section II


4. Social Experiments


5. Regression Discontinuity


6. Natural Experiments & Difference-in-Difference


7. Evaluating the Evaluation


8. Matching
Blundell and Dias, section V.


9. Synthetic Controls
