

# ECON 488 - Applied Econometrics

## Winter 2019

Section 001: 3712 HBLL on M W from 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

### Instructor/TA Info

#### Instructor Information

**Name:** Lars Lefgren

**Office Location:** 435G CTB

**Office Phone:** 801-422-5169

**Office Hours:** Wed 9:30am-10:30am

Thu 9:30am-10:30am

**Email:** lars\_lefgren@byu.edu

#### TA Information

**Name:** Elijah Broadbent

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### Course Information

#### Description

This course examines the application of econometric methods. Methods are taught and examined in the context of high quality academic research.

#### Grading Policy

##### Course Grading:

Grades will be based on the following allocation:

Quizzes	30 %
Homework	10%
Midterm	20 %
Final	20 %
Term Paper	20 %

**Quizzes:** There will be ten quizzes. These quizzes will be short and you will have ten (the time limit is strict) minutes to complete the quiz. The two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. You will also be expected to attend one academic presentation outside of class and provide a short writeup of your experience. This will count as an additional quiz.

**Homework:** There will be homework assignments. Each assignment may be done in groups of up to three individuals. The lowest two homework grades will be dropped.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm and final can be completed at home. You may not receive assistance from any other students, or solicit help in any form from any individual or individuals.

**Term Paper:** A term paper is due on the last day of class. This paper may be written in groups of up to three individuals. A complete draft must be turned in at the assigned due-date in order to receive full credit on the paper.

#### Prerequisites

## Learning Outcomes

### Econ 488 students will be able to

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the assumptions underlying commonly used empirical approaches for the identification of causal effects, including:

- Ordinary least squares
- Matching
- Interrupted time series
- Difference in differences
- Fixed effects
- Instrumental variables

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the interplay between economic theory and empirical work.
3. Read and understand contemporary academic literature in economics. Students will provide written evaluations of selected academic papers, including a clear description and critique of the empirical methods used.
4. Apply modern empirical methods using data analysis exercises.
5. Complete a research project in which they identify a question, assemble a dataset, thoughtfully apply appropriate empirical methods, and clearly describe their methodology, assumptions, and findings.

### Surviving Test Outcome

Learn how to find joy in the mundane.

## Schedule

Date	Column 1	Column 2
Week 1		
M Jan 07 Monday	OLS Review	
W Jan 09 Wednesday	Identification/Experiments	
Week 2		
M Jan 14 Monday	<b>The Role of Application Assistance and Information in College Decisions</b>	<b>Homework 1</b>
W Jan 16 Wednesday	<b>What Happens When We Randomly Assign Children to Families</b>	<b>Quiz 1</b>
Week 3		
W Jan 23 Wednesday	OLS/Matching Strategies	<b>Homework 2</b>
Week 4		
M Jan 28 Monday	<b>Explaining the Puzzle of Cross-State Differences in Bankruptcy Rates</b>	<b>Quiz 2</b>
W Jan 30 Wednesday	<b>Estimates of the Economic Return to Schooling from a New Sample of Twins</b>	<b>Homework 3</b>
Week 5		



M Apr 01 Monday	<b>Sticking with What (Barely) Worked</b>	<b>Homework 7</b>
W Apr 03 Wednesday	<b>Utility Maximization with Sensory Limitations: Theory and Evidence</b>	<b>Quiz 9</b>
Week 14		
M Apr 08 Monday	Presentation of papers	Rough drafts of papers due in class
W Apr 10 Wednesday	Presentation of papers	<b>Quiz 10</b>
Week 15		
M Apr 15 Monday	Meet with Dr. Lefgren to discuss papers.	
W Apr 17 Wednesday	Final thoughts	Final drafts of papers due in class
Week 16		
W Apr 24 Wednesday	Send final exam to Professor Lefgren by 5 p.m.	