

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Research Course in Applied Economics - 57639

Last update 27-10-2014

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Economics

Academic year: 3

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Naomi Hausman

Coordinator Email: naomi.hausman@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 16:00-17:00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Naomi Hausman

Course/Module description:

The purpose of this course is to learn how to DO empirical research in applied microeconomics, from learning how to frame a question to finishing the write-up. Several discussion-style lectures will present methods in applied microeconomics research through existing literature and provide opportunities to talk through the research process. The primary focus of the course will be for the student to develop and produce an original empirical research paper on a topic of his choice (within empirical micro). Topical (suggested) reading lists will be provided to stimulate students' thinking on current research frontiers.

As a means of teaching research methods, the course will cover selected papers in labor economics, public economics, social economics, and urban economics. Topics may include: human capital acquisition, equalizing differences, the effects of unions, incentive models and performance pay, labor supply (and response to taxes and transfers), group differences in the labor market (by race or gender), discrimination, cities and human capital, spatial equilibrium, and peer effects. Which topics we choose to cover exactly will depend to some extent on time, student interest, and the teacher's whims. In this course, the topics take a back seat to learning how to do research.

Course/Module aims:

Learn how to do empirical research

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Analyze data using stata
Know the characteristics of a good research question
Know the components of an empirical research paper.

Attendance requirements(%):

At student's discretion, but attendance is highly correlated with success, and class participation is 5% of the final grade.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Material is taught through lectures, readings, and home assignments including a final empirical research paper.

Course/Module Content:

Various applied microeconomics methods.

Required Reading:

Selected research papers.

Additional Reading Material:

The course has three optional textbooks for reference. Two are undergraduate texts in labor and public economics that may be useful background on theory and methods in topic areas that undergraduates commonly choose to work on. The citations are:

1. Borjas, George J., Labor Economics, 6th Edition, 2013.

2. Rosen, Harvey S., Public Finance, 9th Edition, 2009.

The third reference book is a very light and application-focused econometrics textbook with sections you will surely want to reference when writing your papers: Angrist, Joshua, and Jorn-Steffen Pischke, Mostly Harmless Econometrics, Princeton University Press, 2009.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 30 %

Participation in Tutorials 5 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 15 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 50 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

Ask instructor for complete course information.