

PPPA 8022: Econometrics for Policy Research II

Fall 2018

Instructor: Judith Ricks

Class Meets: Wednesday 6:10-8:00PM

E-mail: jricks@gwu.edu

Location: Phillips Hall 415

Office Hours: By appointment

1. Course Description and Learning Objectives

PPPA 8022 is the second course in the two-part graduate sequence in econometrics. Students should expect to learn advanced quantitative methods. Learning objectives include understanding causal identification, applying reduced form methods to research questions, interpreting and evaluating policy research, implementing reduced form methods using statistical software.

Prerequisite: PPPA 6013 or equivalent. **It is your responsibility to notify the instructor after the first class period if you have not taken PPPA 6013 or have never used statistical programming software.**

2. Lab Information

Location: Gelman Library B01

Time: Every other Wednesday from 8:15-9:00 PM (see course agenda for lab dates)

A Stata lab session will be held every other Wednesday beginning September 5th. The purpose of the lab session is to review a Stata exercise given out the prior week. **It is your responsibility to review and attempt the exercise prior to attending the lab.**

3. Course Textbook (required)

The required course textbook is **not** available in the university bookstore but can be purchased online or at an off-campus bookstore:

Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion

By Joshua Angrist and Jorn-Steffan Pischke

Princeton University Press

ISBN-13: 978-0691120355

4. Course Requirements

For a detailed schedule of the course material, required readings, and due dates see the attached handout, labeled “PPPA 8022: Course Agenda.” The handout will be updated regularly on Blackboard.

Assignment due dates will not change. However, scheduled readings may be updated based on the pace of the course.

a. Problem Sets (30%)

Two problem sets will be assigned each worth 15% of your final grade. Each problem set will be made available on Blackboard approximately one week prior to the due date. Problem sets will require the use of Stata. Students may work with other students, but each individual should submit their original work.

b. Referee Reports (20%)

Two referee reports will be assigned each worth 10% of your final grade. Referee reports will require reading an empirical paper and assessing it. Students are encouraged to discuss the papers, but each student should turn in their own original assessment. See handout on referee reports for more details.

c. In-class Presentation (5%)

Each student will be assigned a paper to present from the course reading list. All presentations should be given using MS PowerPoint or a similar program.

d. Replication (40%)

Students will be required to complete a replication of an academic article of their choosing. See handout on replication for details.

e. Class Participation (5%)

Attendance is mandatory. Furthermore, participation includes all aspects of attentiveness in class. Students should be *present* at all times.

***** Policy on Late Assignments *****

It is never ok to assume an assignment can be submitted past the stated due date. Late assignments will receive a grade of zero unless an extension is approved by the instructor in advance of the due date. The instructor reserves the sole right to give a grade of zero. In cases of extraordinary circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to accept a late assignment at their sole discretion.

5. The Trachtenberg School Policies

a. Incompletes

A student must consult with the instructor to obtain a grade of I (incomplete) no later than the last day of classes in a semester. At that time, the student and instructor will both sign the CCAS contract for incompletes and submit a copy to the School Director. Please consult the TSPPPA Student Handbook or visit our website for the complete CCAS policy on incompletes.

b. Submission of Written Work Products Outside of the Classroom

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that an instructor receives each written assignment. Students can submit written work electronically only with the express permission of the instructor.

c. Submission of Written Work Products after Due Date: Policy on Late Work

All work must be turned in by the assigned due date in order to receive full credit for that assignment, unless an exception is expressly made by the instructor.

d. Academic Honesty:

Please consult the “policies” section of the GW student handbook for the university code of academic integrity. Note especially the definition of plagiarism: “intentionally representing the words, ideas, or sequence of ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise; failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information.” All examinations, papers, and other graded work products and assignments are to be completed in conformance with the George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. See the GW Academic Integrity Code (<http://www.gwu.edu/~integrity>).

e. Changing Grades After Completion of Course

No changes can be made in grades after the conclusion of the semester, other than in cases of clerical error.

f. The Syllabus

This syllabus is a guide to the course for the student. Sound educational practice requires flexibility and the instructor may therefore, at her/his discretion, change content and requirements during the semester. Excused absences will be given for absences due to religious holidays as per the university schedule, but please advise the instructor ahead of time

g. Classroom Expectations

Higher education works best when it becomes a vigorous and lively marketplace of ideas in which all points of view are heard. Free expression in the classroom is an integral part of this process and works best when all of us approach the enterprise with empathy and respect for others, irrespective of their ideology, political views, or identity. We value civility because that is the kind of community we want, and we care for it because civility permits intellectual exploration and growth.

h. Respect for Diversity

It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. I strive to create an inclusive classroom and present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity including gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, and political affiliation. Your suggestions on how to help me succeed with this are encouraged and appreciated.

6. University Policies

a. University Policy on Religious Holidays

Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations. Faculty who

intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

b. Disability Support Services (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Rome Hall, Suite 102, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

c. Mental Health Services 202-994-5300

The University's Mental Health Services offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals. counselingcenter.gwu.edu/

d. Academic Integrity Code

Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. For the remainder of the code, see: studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity

e. Out of Class Learning

Average minimum amount of independent, out-of- class, learning expected per week: In a 15 week semester, including exam week, students are expected to spend a minimum of 100 minutes of out-of-class work for every 50 minutes of direct instruction, for a **minimum** total of 2.5 hours a week.