This course will be co-taught by Professors Mark Hoekstra and Li Gan. The syllabus below corresponds to the part of the course taught by Professor Hoekstra. In Professor Hoekstra’s mini-course, you will be introduced to a wide selection of papers across different areas of empirical microeconomics. The focus will be on describing the identification strategies used by the authors and assessing their success. Professor Hoekstra’s course will meet on January 26, February 2, February 9, March 23, March 30, April 6, and April 13.

Professor Hoekstra’s Course Requirements:

(1) Class Participation (25 percent). You should carefully read the assigned papers prior to each meeting and come prepared to participate in a discussion. This means that you will be expected to analyze the empirical problems encountered by the authors and the extent to which they are successful in solving those problems. You will also be expected to submit short research proposals every week outlining a new research idea and how you would hope to implement it.

(2) Discussion Leader (15 percent). You will be expected to lead the class discussion on at least two of the papers on the reading least below. In this role, you are expected to think more deeply than usual about the identification strategy used in the paper and any problems not addressed in a convincing way and suggest improvements.

(3) Referee Report (25 percent). You will be expected to briefly summarize the important (purported) contributions of a paper assigned by me and provide constructive criticism of the paper.

(4) Exam (35 percent).

Grading Scale:

- A 90.0% +
- B 80.0 – 89.99%
- C 70.0 – 79.99%
- D 60.0 – 69.99%
- F Below 60%

Final grades for ECON 604 will be an average of the grades earned in the mini-courses taught by Professor Hoekstra and Professor Gan.

Cheating Policy: An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do. Violations of the honor code will result in a grade of 0 on that exam and a referral to the Honor System Office. See http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/ for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information, see http://disability.tamu.edu.
Reading List

Methodological Papers


Education


Health


**Social Policy & Social Capital**


**Crime**


**Institutions and Development**


**Political Economy**


**Miscellaneous Topics**


