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ESCUELA DE VERANO 2019

Salón: PTE

Fechas: 10 al 21 de junio. No hay clases los sábados

Horario: 2:30 pm a 5:30 pm

Programa sujeto a cambios

OVERVIEW

Crime and risky behaviors (e.g., smoking, drug use, and poor dietary habits) impose billions of dollars of costs each year on the residents of the United States and other countries. This course teaches an economic approach to studying the determinants of crime and risky behaviors with the goal of identifying effective policies. The extensive economic literature on the causes and consequences of crime and risky behaviors will be studied. Students will use the statistical software package STATA and state-level data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) for the period 2005-2015 to complete three homework assignments.

The specific goals of this course are to:

1. Understand the economic approach to studying crime and risky behaviors such as drug use.
2. Analyze the policies that affect crime and risky behaviors.
3. Transition from being a consumer of research to being a producer of research through the analysis of FARS data.
4. Understand the quasi-experimental approach to doing applied research, its limitations and its strengths.

Students will be required to buy *Economics of Crime and Enforcement* by Anthony M. Yezer (2014, ISBN-10: 0765637103). In addition, students will be expected to read and (with the help of the instructors) interpret original research in the economics, criminology, public health, and medical literatures. Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings in advance of each class and be prepared to discuss them.

PREREQUISITES

A graduate-level econometrics course or its equivalent is required.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend class and to be engaged during lectures and discussions. In addition, you will be required to complete 3 homework assignments using FARS data.

GRADING

The homework assignments will count for 30% of your course grade. In addition, grades will be determined based on your final exam (60%), and class participation (10%).

COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS

The Economic Approach to Studying Crime and Risky Behavior (10/6)

Required Reading:

Becker, Gary (1968), "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach." *Journal of Political Economy*, 76(2): 169-217.

Yezer (2014), Chapter 2

The Experimental Ideal, Regression Analysis and Fixed Effects (11/6)

Required Reading:

Angrist, Joshua and Jorn-Steffen Pischke 2010. The Credibility Revolution in Empirical Economics: How Better Research Design is taking the Con out of Econometrics. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 24 (2): 3-30.

Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. 2013. *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach* (5th edition). Mason OH: South-Western, Chapters 2, 3 and 14.

"Victimless" vs. Other Types of Crime (12/6)

Required Reading:

Yezer (2014), Chapters 4-5

Iyengar, Radha. 2008. "I'd rather be Hanged for a Sheep than a Lamb: The Unintended Consequences of 'Three-Strikes' Laws." NBER Working Paper No. 13784.

Smoking, Risk Preferences and the Decision to Offend (13/6)

Required Reading:

Yezer (2014), Chapter 6

Smoking, Risk Preferences and the Decision to Offend (14/6)

Required Reading:

Friedman, Abigail S. 2015. "How Does Electronic Cigarette Access Affect Adolescent Smoking?" *Journal of Health Economics*, 44: 300-308.

Yezer (2014), Chapter 8

Gun Violence and the Economics of Prostitution (17/6)

Required Reading:

Anderson, D. Mark and Joseph Sabia. "Child Access Prevention Laws, Youth Gun Carrying, and School Shootings." Forthcoming at *Journal of Law and Economics*.

Cunningham, Scott and Manisha Shah. 2018. "Decriminalizing Indoor Prostitution: Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health." *Review of Economic Studies*, 85(3): 1683-1715.

Optional Reading:

Anderson, D. Mark, Joseph Sabia, and Erdal Tekin. 2018. "Child Access Prevention Laws and Juvenile Firearm-Related Homicides." NBER Working Paper No. 25209.

Education, Substance Use and Crime (18/6)

Required Reading:

Lochner, Lance and Enrico Moretti. 2004. "The Effect of Education on Crime: Evidence from Prison Inmates, Arrests, and Self-reports." *American Economic Review*, 94: 155-189.

Optional Reading:

Marie, Olivier and Ulf Zölitz. 2017. "'High' Achievers? Cannabis Access and Academic Performance." *Review of Economic Studies*, 84(3): 1210–1237.

Alcohol Consumption and its Externalities (19/6)

Required Reading:

Anderson, D. Mark, Benjamin Crost, and Daniel Rees. 2018. "Wet Laws, Drinking Establishments, and Violent Crime." *Economic Journal*, 128: 1333-1366.

Carpenter, Christopher and Carlos Dobkin. 2009. "The Effect of Alcohol Consumption on Mortality: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from the Minimum Drinking Age." *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 1(1): 164-182.

Optional Reading:

Carpenter, Christopher and Carlos Dobkin. 2015. "The Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Crime." *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 97: 521-524.

Drugs, Crime, and the Opioid Epidemic (20/6)

Required Reading:

Alpert, Abby, David Powell, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula. 2018. "Supply-Side Drug Policy in the Presence of Substitutes: Evidence from the Introduction of Abuse-Deterrent Opioids." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 10 (4) 1-35.

Optional Reading:

Anderson, D. Mark. 2010. "Does Information Matter? The Effect of the Meth Project on Meth Use among Youths." *Journal of Health Economics*, 29: 732-742.

Final Exam (21/6)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The student may withdraw the course, without refund, up to one business day before the date of the final test stipulated by the teacher. The University will not return the money for tuition payed for these summer courses.