

Salón: PTE

Fechas: 13 de julio al 28 de julio (No incluye clases los sábados ni los días 20 ni 21 de julio)

Horario: 2:00 pm a 5:00 pm

Curso en ingles

OBJETIVO

Binge drinking, illicit drug use, physical inactivity, poor dietary habits, smoking and unprotected sex are responsible for hundreds of thousands of preventable deaths and impose billions of dollars in medical care costs every year. This course teaches an economic approach to studying these risky health behaviors and the policies that affect them. Special attention will be paid to analyzing the effects of excise taxes (e.g., taxes on alcohol, cigarettes, and soft drinks) and to understanding the quasi-experimental approach to doing applied research in economics.

The specific goals of this course are to:

1. Understand the economic approach to studying risky health behaviors such as smoking, binge drinking, and the use of marijuana.
2. Analyze the policies that affect these behaviors.
3. Begin the transition from being a consumer of research to being a producer of research through the writing a brief research paper (described below).
4. Understand the quasi-experimental approach to doing applied research, its limitations and its strengths.

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, students will be expected to read and interpret original research in the economics, 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: Econometría 2 (ECON 3301)

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction, Measurement Issues, and the Experimental Ideal (13/7)

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.

Additional Readings:

Brener, Nancy D, John O.G. Billy, William R. Grady. 2003. "Assessment of Factors Affecting the Validity of Self-Reported Health-Risk Behavior Among Adolescents: Evidence From the Scientific Literature." *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 33: 436-457.

2. A Brief Review of Regression Analysis (13/7 and 14/7)

Required Reading:

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

3. The Economics of Obesity (14/7 and 17/7)

Required Readings:

Cawley, John. "The Impact of Obesity on Wages." 2004. *Journal of Human Resources*, 39(2): 451-474.

Colchero, M. Arantxa Barry M. Popkin, Juan A Rivera, and Shu Wen Ng. 2016. "Beverage Purchases from Stores in Mexico under the Excise Tax on Sugar Sweetened Beverages: Observational Study." *British Medical Journal*, 352. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.h6704>

Fletcher, Jason, David Frisvold, and Nathen Tefft. 2010. "Can Soft Drink Taxes Reduce Population Weight?" *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 28(1), 23-35.

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

Additional Readings:

Finkelstein, Eric A. 1 Christopher J. Ruhm, and Katherine M. Kosa. 2005. "Economic Causes and Consequences of Obesity." *Annual Review of Public Health*, 26:239–257.

4. Addiction, Smoking, and Taxes (17/7 and 18/7)

Required Reading:

Abouka, Rahi and Scott Adams. 2017. "Bans on Electronic Cigarette Sales to Minors and Smoking among High School Students." *Journal of Health Economics*, 54: 17-24.

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

Grafova, Irina B. and Frank P. Stafford. 2009. "The Wage Effects of Personal Smoking History." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 62 (3): 381-393.

5. Identifying Peer Effects (19/7)

Required Readings:

Carrell, Scott E., Mark Hoekstra, and James E. West. 2011. "Is Poor Fitness Contagious? Evidence from Randomly Assigned Friends." *Journal of Public Economics*, 95: 657-663.

Additional Readings:

Cohen-Cole, Ethan and Jason Fletcher. 2008. "Detecting Implausible Social Network Effects in Acne, Height, and Headaches: Longitudinal Analysis." *British Medical Journal*, 337: a2533.

Eisenberg, Daniel, Ezra Golberstein, and Janis L. Whitlock. 2014. "Peer Effects on Risky Behaviors: New Evidence from College Roommate Assignments." *Journal of Health Economics*, 33: 126– 138.

Fletcher, Jason and Olga Yakusheva. 2015. "Learning from Teen Childbearing Experiences of Close Friends: Evidence Using Miscarriages as a Natural Experiment." *Review of Economics and Statistics*. 97(1): 29–43.

6. A Brief Introduction to Gun Violence (24/7)

Required Readings:

Cheng, Cheng and Mark Hoekstra. 2013. "Does Strengthening Self-Defense Law Deter Crime or Escalate Violence? Evidence from Expansions to Castle Doctrine." *Journal of Human Resources*, 48 (3): 821-854.

Lott, John R. Jr., and David B. Mustard. 1997. "Crime Deterrence, and the Right- to- Carry Concealed Handguns." *Journal of Legal Studies*, 26(1): 1-68.

7. An Introduction to Alcohol Consumption (24/7 and 25/7)

Required Readings:

Carpenter, Christopher. 2004. "How Do Zero Tolerance Drunk Driving Laws Work?" *Journal of Health Economics*, 23(1): 61-83.

Dee, Thomas. 1999. "State Alcohol Policies, Teen Drinking and Traffic Fatalities." *Journal of Public Economics*, 72(2): 289-315.

Additional Readings:

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.

Carpenter, Christopher and Carlos Dobkin. 2011. "The Minimum Legal Drinking Age and Public Health" 2011. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 25(2): 133-156.

8. Alcohol Consumption, Traffic Fatalities and Crime (26/7)

Required Readings:

Dee, Thomas. 1999. "State Alcohol Policies, Teen Drinking and Traffic Fatalities." *Journal of Public Economics*, 72(2): 289-315.

Freeman, Donald G. 2007. "Drunk Driving Legislation and Traffic Fatalities: New Evidence on BCA 08 Laws." *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 25 (3):293-308.

Owens, Emily. 2011. "Are Underground Markets Really More Violent? Evidence from Early 20th Century America," *American Law and Economics Review*, 13(1) 1-44.

Additional Reading:

Angela R. Fertig and Tara Watson. 2009. "Minimum Drinking Age Laws and Infant Health Outcomes." *Journal of Health Economics*, 28 (3): 737-747.

Heien, Dale M. and David J. Pittman. 1993. "The External Costs of Alcohol Abuse." *The Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 54 (3): 302-307.

9. The Effect of Legalizing Marijuana on Public Health Outcomes (26/7 and 27/7)

Required Readings:

Anderson, D. Mark, Benjamin Hansen, and Daniel I. Rees. 2013. "Medical Marijuana Laws, Traffic Fatalities, and Alcohol Consumption." *Journal of Law and Economics*, 56 (2): 333-369.

Anderson, D. Mark and Daniel I. Rees. 2014. "The Legalization of Recreational Marijuana: How Likely is the Worst-Case Scenario?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 33 (1): 221-232.

Additional Readings:

Anderson, D. Mark and Daniel I. Rees. 2014. "The Role of Dispensaries: The Devil is in the Details." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 33(1): 235-240.

Anderson, D. Mark, Benjamin Hansen, and Daniel I. Rees. 2015. "Medical Marijuana Laws and Teen Marijuana Use." *American Law and Economics Review*.

Kleiman, Mark. 2013. "Cannabis, Alcohol, and Public Safety: Knowing What You Don't Know." Available at: <http://www.samefacts.com/2013/10/drug-policy/cannabis-alcohol-and-public-safety-knowing-what-you-dont-know/>

Nagourney, Adam and Rick Lyman. 2013. "Few Problems with Cannabis for California." *The New York Times*, October 26. Available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/27/us/few-problems-with-cannabis-for-california.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

Additional Readings:

Pacula, Rosalie L. and Eric L. Sevigny. 2014. "Marijuana Liberalizations Policies: Why We Can't Learn Much from Policy Still in Motion" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 33 (1): 212-221.

Pacula, Rosalie, L. and Eric L. Sevigny. 2014. "Natural Experiments in a Complex and Dynamic Environment: The Need for a Measured Assessment of the Evidence." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 33 (1): 232-235.

Smart, Rosanna. 2015. "The Kids Aren't Alright but Older Adults Are Just Fine: Effects of Medical Marijuana Market Growth on Substance Use and Abuse." Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2574915> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2574915>

10. The Opioid Epidemic (27/7 and 28/7)

Additional Readings:

Alpert, Abby, David Powell, Rosalie Liccardo Pacula. 2017. "Supply-Side Drug Policy in the Presence of Substitutes: Evidence from the Introduction of Abuse-Deterrent Opioids." NBER Working Paper No. 23031

Carpenter, Christopher S., Chandler B. McClellan, and Daniel I. Rees. 2017. "Economic Conditions, Illicit Drug Use, and Substance Use Disorders in the United States." *Journal of Health Economics*, 52: 63–73.

Rees, Daniel I., Joseph J. Sabia, Laura M. Argys, Joshua Latshaw, Dhaval Dave. 2017. "With a Little Help from My Friends: The Effects of Naloxone Access and Good Samaritan Laws on Opioid-Related Deaths." NBER Working Paper No. 23171

11. Education and (Risky) Health Behaviors (28/7)

Required Readings:

Marie, Olivier and Ulf Zölitz. Forthcoming. "'High' Achievers? Cannabis Access and Academic Performance." *Review of Economic Studies*.

Additional Readings:

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.

EVALUACIÓN

Research Paper Guidelines

Students are expected to attend class and to be engaged during lectures and discussions. In addition, you will be required to take a final exam and write a research paper (described below).

Describe and contrast three articles that have something to do health behavior. The articles should be empirical in nature and should have appeared in well-known academic outlets (more on this later). The idea is to find three articles that attempt to answer the same question (or similar questions) using different econometric techniques or data sources. The authors of the articles should cite each other. So, if you have chosen articles by Smith (1988), Jones (1992) and Dreary (1998), then Jones(1992) should cite Smith(1988), and Dreary(1998) should ideally cite both Smith (1988) and Jones (1992). Needless to say, if the authors of your articles do not cite each other your paper will be graded down. Turn in hard copies of the three papers you choose to use so that I can check that the authors cite each other.

1. In your introduction describe the question (or questions) addressed in the three papers. Why is the answer to this question important? Does the answer have implications for the formation of public policy?
2. Then, in the body of your paper, briefly describe your first article (in the example above, the article by Smith). What data and statistical techniques did the author use to address his or her question? What were the results of the study?

3. Introduce your second article. What “gap” in our knowledge does Jones fill that Smith left unfilled? Did Jones use the same data sources and statistical techniques? Did Jones find the same results?

4. Introduce your third article. What gap does Dreary fill that Jones left unfilled?

5. In your conclusion you should give a summary of the research path you have outlined above. Is there a common theme or problem that all three authors deal with? Do all of the authors find the same results? Is there more to be done in this area? If you had ideal data, how would you answer the research question you introduced in your first paragraph? Is there a special statistical technique needed to answer this question?

The paper should be typed, double-spaced, and 5 or 6 pages long (not including references or any figures/tables). Footnotes are preferred to endnotes, and an in-text (“scientific”) citation style should be used. (Papers that do not use an in-text citation style will be graded down.) So, for instance, you might write, “although a number of studies have examined this issue, only one (Anderson 2010) adequately addressed these problems.” Then in a separate section at the end of your paper the following reference would appear:

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.

A complete list of references should be placed at the end of your paper. If you have questions about the in-text citation style, you can find it in use in most economics journals.

Finally, please make sure that at least two out of the three articles have been published in an academic journal. One of the three can be a working paper, but do not use articles that have appeared in the popular press. Examples of academic journals are: *The American Economic Review*, *Economics and Human Biology*, *Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *The Journal of Political Economy*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, and so forth. Articles from academic journals in sociology and public policy or even education are also fair game, but beware the popular press. If you have any doubts, do not hesitate to ask me!

CALIFICACIÓN

Attendance and participation will count for 10% of your course grade. In addition, grades will be determined based on your homework assignments (20%), final exam (30%) and research paper (40%).

FECHA DE RETIRO

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 paid for these summer courses.