

PhD Course: Applied Econometrics

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Textbook

The textbook for the course is *A Guide to Modern Econometrics* by Marno Verbeek. Here is a link: <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/A+Guide+to+Modern+Econometrics,+5th+Edition-p-9781119401155>

All chapters of the textbook will be covered in the lectures. The lectures will be video recorded.

Students should listen to all lectures. The lectures do not cover one-to-one all the content of each chapter. Students are expected to read the textbook on their own, in addition to listening to the lectures.

At the end of the course, a lecture will be devoted to a special topic: causal identification with macroeconomic data. This lecture goes beyond the textbook. The aim of this lecture is provide students with a perspective on some of the key identification issues that are important to keep in mind when writing an empirical paper in macroeconomics.

Home-Work (Problem Sets)

After each chapter, students will be assigned homework – i.e. problem sets on the material covered in each chapter.

Each student should work on the problems sets individually. There should be no group work on the problem sets.

Some of the problem sets may be tough. Set aside a certain amount of hours. Then, within that budget, work through the problem sets.

Replication Exercise

The purpose of the replication exercise is that you familiarize yourself with running regressions, and more generally, gain an understanding of what it takes to publish an empirical paper in a journal.

The paper for the replication exercise is:

Acemoglu, D. et al. (2020). "Population and Conflict." *Review of Economic Studies*, 87: 1565-1604.

I will post the STATA dataset and do-files.

Your task for the replication exercise is to:

- (i) read the paper

(ii) run the do-files in STATA.

Then, write a report. In your report, state whether you were able to replicate all the tables in the paper. Beyond that, write in your report whether you find the paper's identification approach plausible. Further, can you think of any extensions? If so, write this down in your report.

Assessment

Home work and the replication exercise will be assessed on a binary scale. For each item: 0 if nothing is turned in, 1 if something is turned in. The final grade will be the sum over the mark for each item.

At the end of the course, I will post answers to the problem sets so that you can check your performance on the problem sets.

The objective of the course is to provide you with tools *and* for you to develop a better understanding of what you are competent at -- and what not.

As a general advise: success as an academic (i.e. in academia after the PhD) is not based on your grades that you obtained during your PhD but rather, whether you can write papers that get published in widely-read journals, i.e. are respected by the profession.