

Economics 567
2025
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This course is about empirical industrial organization. It focuses on the use of structural econometric techniques to study specific markets. Notes and assignments will be posted on the main course web page at <http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/pschrimpf/567/index.html>. UBC Canvas <https://canvas.ubc.ca/> will be also be used to post grades and share material that should not be publicly posted on the web. Class will be held in person.

1 Schedule

	Day(s)	Time	Location
Lecture	Tuesday & Thursday	9:30am-11:00am	Buchanan B218
Office hours	Tuesday & Thursday 11:00am-11:30am	Iona 112	

Office hours are subject to change. Any changes in office hours will be posted on the course web page. If you cannot come to my office hours, feel free to drop by anytime or email me to schedule an appointment.

2 Course Work

Course work will consist of a presentation, problem sets, and a research proposal. Required reading should be completed before each class. Participation in class discussion is expected, especially during student presentations.

We will use Canvas for online discussion. Whenever possible, please ask questions in the Canvas discussion instead of through email or a Canvas message.

2.1 Presentation

Each student will present a paper. The paper should be related to or on the reading list. Please email me with your intended paper to present at least one week before your presentation. Presentations will occur throughout the term. Each presentation should last for 30 minutes including questions. The presentation should:

1. Summarize the paper
2. Identify the paper's contributions
3. Discuss weaknesses of the paper
4. Make suggestions for further research

2.2 Problem Sets

There will three to five problem sets that will each involve reproducing some results from a paper. Programming will be required for all problem sets. The problem sets will include instructions and example code using Julia. You may use another programming language if you wish, but I expect that will be more difficult. I encourage you to work together on problem sets. Sharing code is acceptable, as long you clearly indicate with whom you worked. Using AI for coding assistance is allowed and encouraged, but you are responsible for the correctness of all code. Please disclose whatever AI tools you use.

2.3 Research Proposal

A research proposal will be due on April 23rd. I encourage sending a rough draft of your proposal by April 9th. I will give feedback on rough drafts within three business days. Your proposal should clearly state a research question. It should include a related literature review. It should also include a some of the following: institutional background, data, and empirical approach.

2.4 Grading

The grade for this course will be 20% presentation, 45% problem sets / replication, 30% research proposal, and 5% participation. Participation includes attending lecture, contributing to discussion (both in class and online), and attending office hours.

3 Course Outline

The topics of the course and some related readings are listed below. The slides for each topic contain the most up to date references. I will announce required readings at the end of each lecture. The order of topics may be changed depending on class interest. We are unlikely to cover all of the topics. The books Aguirregabiria (2021) and Hortaçsu and Joo (2023) and the *Handbook* chapters by Reiss and Wolak (2007), Akerberg et al. (2007), Berry and Haile (2021), Gandhi and Nevo (2021), Aguirregabiria, Collard-Wexler, and Ryan (2021), and Einav, Finkelstein, and Mahoney (2021) provide good overviews of many of these topics. The references therein are good sources of further reading.

1. Introduction

- Recommended: Aguirregabiria (2021) chapter 1, Hortaçsu and Joo (2023) chapter 1
- Suggested: Einav and Levin (2010), Reiss and Wolak (2007)

2. Estimation of production functions

- Recommended: Akerberg et al. (2007) section 2, Olley and Pakes (1996),
- Suggested: Levinsohn and Petrin (2003), Akerberg, Caves, and Frazer (2015), Aguirregabiria (2021) chapter 2, Gandhi, Navarro, and Rivers (2016), Wooldridge (2009), Grieco and McDevitt (2017), De Loecker and Syverson (2021)

3. Static demand and supply of differentiated products

- Recommended: Berry and Haile (2021), Gandhi and Nevo (2021), Akerberg et al. (2007) section 1, Berry, Levinsohn, and Pakes (1995)
- Suggested: Berry (1994), Aguirregabiria (2021) chapter 3, Nevo (2000), Nevo (2001)

4. Market entry

- Recommended: Aguirregabiria (2021) chapter 5, Bresnahan and Reiss (1991),
- Suggested: Bresnahan and Reiss (1990), Seim (2006), Sweeting (2009), Jia (2008)

5. Single-agent dynamic structural models

- Recommended: Rust (1994)
- Suggested: Aguirregabiria (2021) chapters 7, Rust (1987), Hotz and Miller (1993), Timmins (2002), Aguirregabiria and Mira (2002)

6. Dynamic oligopoly

- Recommended: Aguirregabiria, Collard-Wexler, and Ryan (2021), Akerberg et al. (2007) section 3, Aguirregabiria and Mira (2010)
- Suggested: Aguirregabiria (2021) chapters 6, 9, Magnac and Thesmar (2002), Pesendorfer and Schmidt-Dengler (2008), Bajari, Benkard, and Levin (2007), Pakes, Ostrovsky, and Berry (2007), Aguirregabiria and Mira (2007), Bajari et al. (2009), Ryan (2012)

7. Auctions Hortaçsu and Perrigne (2021)

8. Contracting and asymmetric information

9. Search and matching

10. Networks

References

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