Economics 8676- Labor Economics 1  
Spring 2016  
MW 11-12:15  ECON 5

Terra McKinnish  
Econ 115  
mckinnis@colorado.edu  
303-492-6770  
spot.colorado.edu/~mckinnis  
Office Hours:  M 1:30-3, Th 10-11:30, and by appt

Course Description
This is a graduate survey course in labor economics. The first 4 weeks of class will be a mini-course in applied econometric tools. The remaining 11 weeks of the semester will cover 3 key topic areas in labor economics: labor supply, human capital, and demographic economics.

A primary goal of this course is to teach you to read and understand papers beyond the superficial “introduction and conclusion” summary. Over the course of the semester, we will discuss approximately 20 papers in class. Using the attached schedule, you are expected to bring a copy of the paper on the appropriate day, to have read the paper prior to class, and to be prepared to answer questions regarding the content of the paper if asked to do so.

There will be 3 problems sets.

The tentative schedule for the problem sets is:
PS#1- Differences-in-Differences, Panel Data, due 1/29  
PS#2- Instrumental Variables, Labor Supply Due 2/12  
PS#3- Measurement Error, Limited Dependent Variables, Due 3/4

In addition to a midterm (2/24) and final, students will be required to write an executive summary of an existing paper (Due 4/1) and a research proposal (Due 4/29)

The final grades in the course will be determined by:
Midterm Exam: 25%, Final Exam: 35%, Problem Sets: 15%, Executive Summary 10%, Proposal 15%
Reading List and Schedule

I. Applied Econometrics

1/11, 1/13- Introduction, Differences-in-Differences


1/22- Panel Data, Fixed-Effects


1/25, 1/27- Instrumental Variables


2/1, 2/3- Measurement Error, Limited Dependent Variables, Selection

II. Labor Supply

2/8, 2/10 – Intro to Static Model

2/15 - Estimation of Static Model


2/17, 2/22- Life-Cycle Model


2/24 Midterm

**III. Human Capital**

2/29- Human Capital Model

3/2-3/30


Dynarski, Susan, Jonathan Gruber and Danielle Li. 2011. “Cheaper by the Dozen: Sibling Discounts at Catholic schools to estimate the price elasticity of private school Attendance.” NBER working paper #15461.

**III. Demographic Economics**

4/4, 4/6- Models of Household Production, Fertility and Household Bargaining


