

**Econ 700:****Research on Frontier Economics Topics
– Econometrics Reading Group****Units:** 2**Term:** Spring 2020**Time:** Friday 1:00 PM – 2:20 PM**Location:** KAP 137**Instructors:** Hyungsik Roger Moon & Geert Ridder**Office:** KAP 310B (Moon) and KAP 306A (Ridder)**Office Hours:** Friday 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Moon),
Friday 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM (Ridder), or by
Appointment**Contact Info:**moonr@usc.edu, 1-213-740-2109 (office)ridder@usc.edu, 1-213-740-2432 (office)**Course Description**

This course is a research course offered for the third and the fourth year graduate students of the economics Ph.D. program who are interested in conducting research in econometrics theory and its applications to various economics topics. The students learn various frontier research topics of econometrics theory and its applications to economics through critical discussions of research papers that study the most recent econometrics research agendas. This course fills the gap between the topics typically covered in the second year econometrics courses and the frontier research topics that students potentially choose to work for their Ph.D. theses. Students can take the same course (and the same session) multiple times up to 8 credits (4 times).

Learning Objectives

The objective of the course is to help generating new ideas and converting them into a paper that is at the frontier of the research of econometrics and its applications. Each student will choose topics that will be at the intersection of the interest of the students and what is considered promising in the field of econometrics. On each topic, frontier research will be discussed through a set of core papers that include the most recent unpublished working. Students would then present/submit their research idea, receive feedback on the idea, its motivation and their proposed research strategy. Following this “idea generation” phase, students will move to “idea advancement” phase for which they would present/submit a new draft. Forming a cohesive group of faculty and graduate students that foster peer interactions and critical discussion is another key aspect of the proposed course.

Prerequisite(s): Any of the following 4 courses - Econ 609, Econ 611, Econ 613, Econ 614, Econ 615, Econ 625, Econ 688, Econ 715, Econ 570.

Course Notes

Students share their presentation slides via Blackboard.

Grading Breakdown

The grade of the course is a letter grade. The grade will be made based on the following composition:

- 20%: In class presentation of assigned research papers and new research ideas.
- 20%: Class participation.
- 60%: Final paper (initial idea proposal and draft) and its presentation.

Additional Policies

- Students should present key research papers (3-4) once every semester.
- Students should submit their proposal for their research projects by the end of the semester.

There is no extension of the deadline.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/part-b>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, and harassment are prohibited by the university. You are encouraged to report all incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity/Title IX Office* <http://equity.usc.edu> and/or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://dps.usc.edu>. This is important for the health and safety of the whole USC community. Faculty and staff must report any information regarding an incident to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide outreach and information to the affected party. The sexual assault resource center webpage <http://sarc.usc.edu> fully describes reporting options. Relationship and Sexual Violence Services <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp> provides 24/7 confidential support.

Support Systems

A number of USC's schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute* <http://ali.usc.edu>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* <http://dsp.usc.edu> provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.