This short course consists of six two-hour lectures, each of which will be devoted to the link between microeconomic modeling, data, and econometrics in some particular applications. I have deliberately tried to avoid the coverage of papers in which the modeling and estimation is particularly complex in order to stress the fact that “structural” estimation can be carried out even using standard linear (or nearly linear) estimators in many cases. In fact, these tend to be some of the most successful applications in the literature. By covering a number of topics, I hope to convey the idea that this approach can be fruitfully utilized in virtually any context.

Unfortunately, given the limited duration of the course, we won't have time to investigate these applications and the methods used to estimate these types of models in depth. I encourage students to contact me outside of class if they would like to discuss the potential use of this type of approach in research questions of interest to them, or just to clarify some of the topics covered during the lectures.

Student Assessment: Approximately one week after the course concludes, all registered students will be given a take-home exam on some of the papers and material covered in the course. They will have one week to complete the exam. The final assessment of each student will be based on their performance on the take-home exam (90 percent) and their class participation (10 percent).

Topics:

(Note: Items with * will be emphasized in the presentations)

Lecture 1: Introduction to Model-Based Estimation; Child Support Applications

1. *Notes (to be distributed)

Lecture 2: Incentives and Effort Supply

2. *Notes on Paarsch and Shearer (to be distributed)

Lecture 3: Child Development


Lecture 4: Household Behavior


Lecture 5: Labor Market Search

1. *Notes (to be distributed)
4. *Notes on Salop

Lecture 6: Topics in Labor Market Search: Minimum Wages and Schooling Decisions