Empirical Law and Economics
Law 940-001-13A
Spring 2013

Wednesdays 4:30-6:30
Tanenbaum 320
Office Hours: W 3:00-4:30

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Purpose:
This course will present a summary of modern methods of micro-econometrics, focusing on drawing causal inferences from observational data. We will then survey the empirical work in a number of core areas in law and economics.

Grade:
Your grade will be entirely determined by a semester paper that either (1) surveys the empirical work in an area of law and economics not covered in the course or (2) proposes a hypothesis related to a law and economics topic, formulates a research design to test the hypothesis, collects data to implement the research design, and analyzes the results yielded by the design. The latter approach will most likely result in a higher grade than a paper that surveys the literature.

Schedule:

January 9: Introduction to Law and Economics

January 16: Introduction to Statistics

Readings:

January 23: More on Statistics

January 30: No Class (to be made up with student meetings on paper topic)

February 6: Police and Crime

Readings:


February 13: Prison and Crime
Readings:


February 20: Medical Malpractice

Readings:


February 27: Health

Readings:


March 6: No Class (Spring Break)

March 13: Corporate Governance

Readings:

March 20: No Class (to be made up – Student Choice)
March 27: Legal Origins

Readings:


April 3: Judicial Behavior

Readings:


Jef DeMot, Michael Faure, and Jonathan Klick (2012), “Appellate Caseload and the Switch to Comparative Negligence,” working paper

April 10: Student Choice

April 17: Student Choice