COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The course provides an introduction to current research in public economics and political economy focusing largely on local, urban, and state issues. The objective is to prepare and encourage Ph.D. students to start working on their own research.

TOPICS:
We will cover a variety of topics including the following:

1. Motivation:


2. The Provision of Local Public Goods in a Decentralized System of Local Jurisdictions


2006, 90 (6-7), 959-981.


3. School Competition and Neighborhood Choice:


4. Program Evaluation and Field Experiments:

Chirico, M., Inman, R., Loeffler C., McDonnald, J. and H. Sieg (2016), "Deter-

5. Higher Education: Access and Financial Aid


Arcidiacono, P. (2005), ”Affirmative Action in Higher Education,” Economet-
onica, 63 (5), 1477-1524.

6. Housing Markets:


per.

the Production Function for Housing,” American Economic Review, 100 (3), 905-924.

7. Dynamic Equilibrium Models of Firm and Household Sorting:

8. Dynamic Games of Electoral Competition:

9. Dynamic Bargaining over Government Formation:

10. Dynamic Bargaining in Legal Disputes:
GRADES:
Grades will be based on participation, a presentation of a paper, and a research proposal.

PRESENTATIONS:
Each student is asked to present one of the papers marked with a *. All presentations should last approximately 1 hour. LATEX and PDF files of the 25-30 slides must be submitted at least one day before the presentation.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL:
The research proposal should include the following: a) a motivation of the topic that is to be studied; b) a short literature review summarizing the main papers in area and outlining the potential contributions of the proposed research; c) a data section describing the main sources and variables that are needed to conduct the empirical analysis. If possible, the proposal should provide some descriptive statistics of the main data set that is to be used in the research; d) an outline of a model; e) discussion of potential identification problems; f) an outline of a feasible estimation strategy. The research proposal should be 15 pages and is due at the end of the semester.