Instructor:

Christopher Flinn
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Office Hours:

By appointment (send me an e-mail or contact me after class). I will be around the department at various times, but I will have more time to meet individually with students during the second and third weeks of the course.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to acquaint students with some research topics in household economics, and the applications we discuss will combine equal amounts of theory and econometrics. Over the course of the six lectures, I will be discussing some contentious issues in modeling intrahousehold behavior, which mainly center on whether household decision-making should be viewed as efficient or not. We will be emphasizing econometric approaches to the estimation of models of household behavior. We will then look at household formation and dissolution; when discussing dissolution, we will be concerned with situations in which children are present. Our attention will then turn to the behavior of households in dynamic models of the labor market, and we will consider some preliminary research of mine (with Luca Flabbi) on simultaneous search for partners and jobs. The last topics we cover involve child (cognitive) development, and the role that households play in determining the cognitive ability of their children. The final meeting considers the role that external agents play in the child’s cognitive development process, and the design of mechanisms that can induce households to produce more child “quality.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Intrahousehold Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Household Formation</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Household Dissolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Households and the Labor Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Households and Child Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Transfers and Child Development</td>
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Reading List

Note: Selections with (*) are emphasized in class presentation

1. Intrahousehold Behavior


2. Household Formation


3. Household Dissolution


4. Households and the Labor Market


5. Child Development


6. Transfers and Child Development


