This syllabus is the (lengthy) contract between you and me. Please read it carefully. “I didn’t read the syllabus” is not an acceptable excuse for overlooking an assignment, being late, and so on. Prof. Olney

ECONOMICS 154 is a seminar course on the economics of discrimination. The primary goal of the seminar is to develop critical reading, research, and writing skills.

Not all difference results from discrimination. Not all discrimination results in observable differences. This course focuses on issues of difference and discrimination associated with race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, or nation of birth, focusing particularly on markets other than the labor market. Is there evidence of discrimination in credit markets? In health care? In education? A critical skill for economic analysis of discrimination is econometric method, and so in this seminar we will look carefully at the ways in which econometrics has been used to address questions of discrimination.

As part of Berkeley’s Undergraduate Student Learning Initiative (USLI), the Economics Department has developed learning goals for the Economics major. See http://emlab.berkeley.edu/econ/ugrad/ugrad_goals.shtml.

The specific learning goals for this course are:
- CT3. Compare two or more arguments that have different conclusions to a specific issue or problem.
- CT4. Understand the role of assumptions in arguments.
- QT1. Understand how to use empirical evidence to evaluate an economic argument.
- QT2. Interpret statistical results.
- QT3. Conduct appropriate statistical analysis of data, and explain the statistical problems involved.
- QT4. Obtain and/or collect relevant data using specific qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.
- CS1. Communicate effectively in written, spoken, and graphical form about specific economic issues.
- CS2. Formulate a well-organized written argument that states assumptions and hypotheses, which are supported by evidence.
- CS3. Present an economic argument orally.
- LL1. Possess a working knowledge of information data bases (e.g., Econ Lit, Lexis-Nexis)
- LL2. Know how to locate and use primary data sources (e.g., BLS Household Survey, UN Human Development Index)

Economics 154 must be taken for a grade if it is to be used toward the requirements for the major.

Professor’s Office Hours
Professor Martha Olney, 691 Evans Hall, 642-6083. Olney@berkeley.edu (Allow 48 hours for a reply.)
Twitter: @MarthaOlney
Fridays (generally, see below). By appointment 9:00 - 10:30 a.m., open drop-in office hours 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Sign up for 10-minute appointments at http://wejoinin.com/sheets/jflly
No office hours on Friday Feb 21, Friday Mar 7, Friday Mar 14
Substitute office hours on Monday Feb 24, Monday Mar 10, Monday Mar 17

Prerequisites Economics 100A, 100B, and 140 or 141.
**Required Textbooks**

Reader from Copy Central, Bancroft Way (about $55, or download the articles yourself).

**Responsibilities: Mine and Yours**

My responsibilities are to design appropriate class activities, come to class prepared, encourage class participation, promptly grade papers, be available during scheduled office hours and for scheduled appointments, and stimulate enthusiasm for economics, for research, and for learning.

Your responsibilities are to attend and participate in class three hours per week, complete all readings by the date shown on the syllabus, complete all assignments on time, write one take-home midterm, write and present team papers, and write and present a term paper.

**Special Accommodations**

If you require special accommodations due to learning or other disability, or if you need special assistance during an emergency evacuation, speak with or email Professor Olney no later than February 3. You don’t need your official DSP evaluation completed by February 3 but before any accommodation can be offered you will need to meet with your adviser in the Disabled Students’ Program (260 César Chávez Student Center).

**Letter of Introduction**

For our second meeting, please write a one-page letter of introduction of yourself to me (Professor Olney). Include your name and anything about yourself that you would like to share. Please include or embed a photo; it will be helpful to me in three years when you ask for a letter of recommendation. Your letter may be typed or handwritten. Please bring the assignment to class on January 28.

**Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy**

All students at UC Berkeley are expected to abide by the Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others."

In fairness to students who put in an honest effort, cheaters will be treated harshly. Any evidence of cheating will result in a score of zero (0) on that assignment or paper. Plagiarism on the term paper results in a failing grade in the course. Incidences of cheating will be reported to the Center for Student Conduct which may administer additional punishment. Cheating includes plagiarism. **What is most important is that everyone learns the proper methods of crediting their sources so as to avoid inadvertent plagiarism.** Plagiarism includes re-submitting work prepared for another class, appropriation of whole passages with or without credit, appropriation of words and phrases without credit, appropriation of both main and supporting ideas without credit, and paraphrasing without credit. Plagiarism also includes submitting a paper written by someone else. If you are unsure of how to properly cite sources, ask Professor Olney for guidance.

**Laptop Policy**

If you use your laptop during class, you can not multi-task. If I determine that laptops are being used for email, other course work, or any other laptop activity not directly related to Econ 154, then everyone will lose the privilege of using a laptop in class.

**Course Assignments, Determination of Grades, and Due Dates**

There are two big individual assignments – a take-home midterm and the term paper – and one big team assignment. To develop researching and writing skills capable of producing a quality research paper, there are a number of other assignments due along the way.
For each assignment other than the term paper please put your name, the date, and the word count in the upper right hand corner. Omit the word count if the assignment says “no word limit.” Include a brief centered title. Use an 11 or 12 pt font. Double space your text. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Word Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martha Olney</td>
<td>January 19, 2014</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Syllabus for Economics 154

Text starts here. Word count includes only the text, not the title nor the headings at top right. Your word processor has a way of counting the number of words in a block of text. If you don’t know what that is, use the "help" command on your word processor and search for help on "count" or "word count."

If assignments are not properly formatted, you lose 1 point on that assignment.

Regarding the Assignments

Note: 250 words is approximately one double-spaced, 12 pt font, page with 1 inch margins on all sides.

For assignments that will be graded, a grading rubric will be posted to the course bspace site at least one week before the assignment is due.

Summary of Article: (500 word limit) For the first day of class, bring in one news article. Do a 2-minute oral presentation that includes (a) what is the issue of the article, (b) what is the difference that is discussed there, and (c) what sort of policy solutions (if any) are proposed/discussed. Turn in a 1-2 page write-up of your (a)-(b)-(c) summary. Your paper should be typed, 11-12 pt font, double-spaced, with your name, the date, and the word count in the upper right hand corner. Attach a copy of the article to your paper.

Letter of Introduction: (no word limit) A one-page paper in which you introduce yourself to Prof. Olney. Please attach or embed a photo of yourself. Handwritten is ok but typed is preferred. Grading is based on on-time submission, not content.

Library Quiz (no word limit) After the library seminar on February 4 you will receive a quiz by email. Submit it to Prof Olney on bspace (assignments tab) by 8 a.m. on Monday February 10. Late penalty: loss of 1 point for every 0 minutes to 24 hours the assignment is late.

500 words maximum: Critical analysis. You will read an article of your choice in an economics journal, identify assumption(s) made by the author(s), and critically analyze the argument(s). Your approach will be based on the method discussed in class on January 28. Include in your paper a link to the article – and – attach the article’s abstract, introduction, and conclusion to your paper.

250 words maximum: Topic idea. Include a statement of your term paper topic, what researchable answerable questions you might ask, and why those are interesting questions.

2 - 3 pages (very soft page limit): Data analysis. (no word limit) You will analyze a data set of your choice. Briefly describe the data set (what is being measured, by whom). Using your econometric and analytical skills, present some analysis of the data. Include at least one table you have prepared. If a graph is appropriate, include a graph too. Clearly explain the empirical results you present. If you cannot locate a data set, you may use one of the data set(s) that Prof. Olney places on the course website.
Annotated bibliography.  (no word limit) Prepare a preliminary bibliography for your term paper.  Use Chicago Style citation system (a.k.a. Turabian, linked from http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/instruct/guides/citations.html).  Include at least seven different items.  At least two must be academic journal articles.  Annotate your bibliography; that is, for each item, include one sentence that briefly states what is in the source and a second sentence that explains how the source will be useful.

Data Description and Analysis.  (no word limit) Locate a data source relevant to your term paper topic, describe the data source, and present one piece of preliminary analysis.  Indicate how your results are relevant to your term paper topic.  If you used your data set for the Feb. 25 data analysis, indicate additional result(s), make corrections based on the comments to your Feb. 25 assignment, and attach the graded copy of the Feb. 25 assignment.

TAKE-HOME MIDTERM EXAM.  The midterm exam will consist of three essay questions addressing the readings.  Be sure you are completing your “reading guide” on each article as it is assigned; you will need them for the midterm!

Minimum 8 pages: Draft of at least 50 percent of your term paper.  The more you can turn in, the more useful my comments.

750-1,000 words: TEAM PAPER: Take a Stand: Pro.  In teams of two or three, choose an issue statement from the options provided in class on March 18, and “take a stand” in favor of the statement.  Your position can not be rhetorical.  You must defend your position with your own or previously published economic analysis and data.  Make your assumptions clear.  Present the strongest case possible but do not, even once, resort to rhetorical excess.  Don’t demonize your opponents.  That’s especially important because of the next assignment.

750-1,000 words: TEAM PAPER: Take a Stand: Con.  With the same team, now “take a stand” against the same statement you addressed in the “Take a Stand: Pro” assignment.  Your position can not be rhetorical.  You must defend your position with your own or previously published economic analysis and data.  Make your assumptions clear.  Present the strongest case possible but do not, even once, resort to rhetorical excess.  Don’t demonize your opponents: that was you in the other paper.  All team members must contribute to both papers.

Team evaluations: Write a confidential evaluation of each person’s contribution to the two “take a stand” papers.  Evaluate yourself, too.  Should the course grades on the two papers be awarded equally to all team members, or does one person deserve a little more (or less) credit than the other(s)?  Give each person, including yourself, a “participation & contribution” score out of a possible 10 points.

PRESENTATION of “Take a Stand” Papers.  Each team will present their “Take a Stand” papers.  Explain the issue addressed, the conceptual points on both sides of the issue, the assumptions that divide one side from the other, and what research they think is needed to try to resolve the debate.  Each presentation should be 10 to 12 minutes long.

PRESENTATIONS.  In class, you will offer a 10 minute presentation of your term paper.  What is your topic?  What question(s) did you ask?  Why are those interesting question(s)?  What is the relevant related literature?  What analysis did you conduct with what data?  What did you find?

15 to 18 pages: Term Paper!  What you’ve been building toward all semester.  A term paper, on issues of discrimination and difference, race, gender, sexual orientation, nativity, or the like.  An answerable economic question, a discussion of related literature, presentation and description of data set, an empirical analysis of the problem, and a conclusion.  Make it something you can include in your grad school applications or recruitment packets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment (see above for descriptions)</th>
<th>Due Date (3:10 p.m.)</th>
<th>Number of Points &amp; Share of Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of News Article &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Introduction</td>
<td>Tues., Jan. 28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Quiz (questions will be sent via email on 2/7)</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>, Feb 10 (On bspace by 8 am)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical analysis of economics article of your choice (500 word maximum)</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper topic idea (250 words max)</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 18</td>
<td>loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on term paper if assignment is late or unacceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data analysis of data set of your choice (2 - 3 pp)</td>
<td>Tues., Feb. 25</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography (minimum 7 items, at least 2 of which must be academic journal articles)</td>
<td>Tues., March 4</td>
<td>loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on term paper if assignment is late or unacceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home Midterm Exam</td>
<td><strong>Monday</strong>, March 10 (On bspace by 8 am)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of your data set and one piece of preliminary analysis</td>
<td>Tues., March 18</td>
<td>loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on term paper if assignment is late or unacceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper draft, at least 50 percent complete (minimum 8 pages)</td>
<td>Tues., April 1</td>
<td>loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on term paper if assignment is late or unacceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Paper: Take A Stand: Pro &amp; Con Team Presentation of Take A Stand Papers</td>
<td>Tues., April 8</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Evaluations</td>
<td>Tues., April 8</td>
<td>loss of entire grade on team papers if not turned in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations of term papers</td>
<td>Tues., April 22 &amp; April 29</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper (15 - 18 pages)</td>
<td>Friday May 2</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Min. revisions to the term paper can be made in light of Prof. Olney’s comments, with the paper resubmitted during finals week. See last page of syllabus for important requirements &amp; details.</td>
<td><strong>Friday May 2</strong> (hard copy, by noon)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Reading Guide” Write-ups</td>
<td>most weeks</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>
Late Penalties
Ungraded assignments: Loss of 1/3 of a letter grade on the term paper if the assignment is up to 2 weeks late, or if it is on time but unacceptable. For example, an A- term paper becomes a B+, a B+ term paper becomes a B, and so on. Assignments more than 2 weeks late result in a full grade drop on the term paper (e.g., an A- paper becomes a B-). If one of these assignments is never completed before the final draft of the term paper is turned in, the term paper receives a D or an F.

Graded assignments: For each day (or part thereof) that a graded assignment is late, you’ll lose 10% of the possible points. Weekend days count. So if an assignment is turned in a week late, you’ll lose 70% of the possible points right off the top. For example, turning in the term paper one day late costs you 3 points; turning it in 3 days late costs you 9 points.

Incentive to Attend and Participate
A “reading guide” form is available on the course website. Each week starting February 11 you should bring in completed reading guides for the journal articles we will discuss that day. During the break, Prof. Olney will skim over your reading guide. Reading guides that appear to reflect “an honest effort” will receive ½ point. You must be present in order to earn reading guide points. 5 points are possible for “reading guide write-ups” but 8.5 points can be earned. If you earn 6 or more points, you will receive one of the two rewards listed below:

1. One of the papers toward the term paper can be two weeks late with no penalty, OR
2. The points in excess of the first 5 can be used to increase one or more of the 5 point papers to full credit, so long as you earned at least 2 points on that paper in the first place. (You can’t skip an assignment altogether, but you can use attendance to bring a grade from something between 2 and 5 up to 5 points.)

Prof. Olney will determine which reward benefits you the most and will apply that one.

An additional 1.5 bonus points will be awarded at the end of the term to students who participate in classroom and online (Piazza) discussion. Classroom participation is defined as contributing to the conversation. Piazza participation will be based on asking questions rated as “good” by other students and offering “good” responses to other students’ questions.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Tuesday, January 21
Introduction; Overview of Course; Presentation of News Articles; Interests; Background Data
DUE: Summary & Presentation of News Article

Tuesday, January 28
Background Articles on Economics, Discrimination, and Affirmative Action; Discussion of “Doing Research” and Critical analysis. Be sure to read articles before coming to class! Cold calling starts today.
DUE: Letter of Intro

Who are Economists?


How Economists Think about Discrimination


Affirmative Action and Economic Analysis


Tuesday, February 4
Meet in Doe Library Room 105
Library Seminar; Data Sources

MONDAY, February 10 by 8 a.m. via bspace DUE: Library Quiz

Tuesday, February 11 DUE: Critical Analysis

Discuss Becker; Race and Borrowing and Savings and Wealth

**Be sure to read articles before coming to class!** Reading guides required starting today (but not for Becker)


Tuesday, February 18 DUE: Topic Idea

Meet in 64 Barrows
Discussion of writing; Stata workshop

READ: (1) McCloskey (entire book - no reading guide due on this reading)

Tuesday, February 25 DUE: Data Analysis

Wealth Accumulation, continued; Discussion of compiling a reading list


Tuesday, March 4

Grocery Stores; In-class small group presentations of topic ideas and plans for paper; midterm distributed


**DUE: Annotated Bibliography**

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MONDAY, March 10 by 8:00 a.m. via bspace

DUE: Take home Mid-term

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**DUE: Take home Mid-term**

Tuesday, March 10 by 8:00 a.m. via bspace

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Tuesday, March 11

No class

Midterm due via bspace yesterday, **Monday** (not Tuesday) March 10, 8 a.m.

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Tuesday, March 14

Health; Constructing arguments; Forming teams for “Take a Stand” papers


. Background paper is available at http://repository.stcloudstate.edu/econ_wps/18/

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**DUE: Term paper data analysis**

Tuesday, March 18

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Tuesday, March 25

Spring Break: no class

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Tuesday, April 1

Crime; In-class small group discussions of term papers


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**DUE: Draft of 50%+ of Term Paper**
Tuesday, April 8
DUE: Take A Stand Papers and Team Evaluations
Team presentations of “Take a Stand” papers

Tuesday, April 15
Education

Tuesday, April 22
Presentations of term papers (random draw of 50-60% of class, selected by April 13) DUE: Presentations

Tuesday, April 29
Presentations, continue (the other 40-50% of the class) DUE: Presentations
Pizza after class.

Friday, May 2 by noon DUE: Term Papers!
Bring a hard copy of your paper to Prof. Olney’s office some time between 9 and noon on Friday May 2. Make it look nice so you can show it off to your family later on! Turn in the graded copy of your April 1 draft as well.

Minor revisions (what journals would call “accepted subject to minor revision”) that take account of Prof. Olney’s comments are possible. In order to take advantage of this option, these conditions must be satisfied:
1. The paper must be submitted on time, by noon on Friday May 2.
2. The graded copy of the April 1 draft must accompany the term paper.
3. The paper submitted on Friday May 2 must be complete and be worthy of a good (B+ or better) grade. The paper must take account of previous comments from Prof. Olney. The paper can not be incomplete, sloppy, or otherwise indicative that you planned to work on the paper after May 2.
4. You must come to Prof. Olney’s office Tuesday afternoon of RRR week to pick up your graded paper.
5. The revised paper is due to Prof. Olney – along with the graded copy of the May 2 submission – no later than noon on Tuesday of finals week. No late submissions of revisions will be accepted.

To get the graded paper back, do one of the following: [1] Plan to come to Prof. Olney’s office the morning of Economics commencement day, Wednesday May 21. Or [2] When you turn in the paper, bring along a self-addressed stamped 9x12 envelope.