

Bogazici University
Department of Economics
Summer 2020

EC 48B – 01: Special Topics: Contemporary Issues in Economic Policy

Instructor: Ceyhun Elgin

Office hours: By appointment at Zoom

E-mail: ceyhun.elgin@boun.edu.tr

Website: <http://www.ceyhunelgin.com>

Lecture: T,T,W,W,Th,Th 2,3,2,3,2,3; Zoom

E-mail is the best way to reach me. However, please allow up to 24 hours (48 hours in rare cases) for a reply.

1 Course description

The course will introduce undergraduate students to surveys of contemporary policy issues in economic literature. Particularly, we will discuss recent policy issues arising through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2 Prerequisites

Economics uses mathematical modeling as tool to understand complex human behavior. Math-wise, I will take as granted that you know how to work with basic calculus and statistics. Considering that this is an applied theory course we will be working with the data to verify the theories developed in the classroom. At the very minimum, you should have a working knowledge of some program to organize data (like Microsoft Excel).

3 Textbook

There is no required textbook of the course. Course readings will be made available online.

4 Course requirements

4.1 Class participation

Attendance is not mandatory but **strongly** recommended. However, active participation in class is strongly encouraged and you should keep in mind that the definition of participation includes relevant contributions to class discussion, and participation in in-class activities.

4.2 Reading Reports

There will be a few reading reports during the course. These short reports (one and a half page at most) will be based on recent economic papers from leading journals and institutions and are provided as a way to "update" you in the current state of economic policy and applications. Reading reports cannot be worked in groups. All the readings are related to the material of the class. I will announce the assignment and give details about each report at least a week before it is due.

4.3 Final Exam

There will be one final exam which will be given on the last day of classes.

4.4 Group Presentation

Each group (consisting of one, two or at most three students) will be responsible for preparing an approximately 30 minute presentation about a paper related to the course's material (I will provide the list and the details later on). I expect a formal exposition, and will assume that all members of the team worked together to prepare the presentation.

5 Grading policy and grading scale

The weights for the final score will be as follows:

| Concept | Percentage of final grade |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Class Participation | 5% |
| Reading Reports | 24% |
| Final Exam | 36% |
| Group Presentation | 35% |

Below is the grading scale for the course. I reserve the right to lower these cut-off points (i.e., increase the letter grades for percentages), but I will not raise the cut-offs (i.e., make it harder to get good grades).

| Percentage | 100-90 | 89-85 | 84-80 | 79-75 | 74-70 | 69-60 | 59-50 | 50-0 |
|------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Grade | AA | BA | BB | CB | CC | DC | DD | F |

6 Tentative Course Schedule

The material that will be covered is summarized below. In the course of progress this schedule may change. I will notify you in advance when such a change occurs.

Week 1: Introduction and Current Issues

1. View of International Institutions

Readings for Weeks 1

- IMF World Economic Outlook: April 2020 Edition - The Great Lockdown
- World Bank Global Economic Prospects: June 2020 Edition: Pandemic, Recession: The Global Economy in Crisis

Weeks 1-3: Economics and Economies during COVID-19

1. Policy Responses during the Pandemic

Readings for Weeks 1-3

- Economic policy responses to a pandemic: Developing the Covid-19 economic stimulus index. Ceyhun Elgin, Gokce Basbug and Abdullah Yalaman

- Economic policy responses to a pandemic: The Role of Informality. Ceyhun Elgin, Gokce Basbug; Gamze Oz Yalaman and Abdullah Yalaman
- COVID-19 Pandemisinin Yol Actigi Ekonomik Krize Karsi Aciklanan Ekonomik Tesvik Paketleri: Bir Karsilastirma ve Turkiye Ornegi. Ceyhun Elgin ve Abdullah Yalaman
- Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19 in Mediterranean Countries. Ceyhun Elgin ve Gokce Basbug
- Tracking the Economic Impact of COVID-19 and Mitigation Policies in Europe and the United States Sophia Chen, Deniz Igan, Nicola Pierri, and Andrea F. Presbitero
- Democracy and Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19. Ceyhun Elgin, Abdullah Yalaman, Sezer Yasar and Gokce Basbug
- Covid-19 Helicopter Money: Economics and Politics. Donato Masciandaro
- Does Policy Communication during COVID Work? Olivier Coibion, Yuriy Gorodnichenko and Michael Weber
- Democracy, culture, and contagion: Political regimes and countries' responsiveness to Covid-19. Carl Benedikt Frey, Chinchih Chen and Giorgio Presidente

Weeks 3-4: Economics and Economies during COVID-19

1. Gender and the Pandemic

Readings for Gender Aspects

- Women's Work, Housework and Childcare, before and during COVID-19. Daniela Del Boca, Noemi Oggero, Paola Profeta, Maria Cristina Rossi
- Leading the fight against the pandemic: Does gender "really" matter? Supriya Garikipati and Uma Kambhampati
- The Gender Gap in Mental Well-Being During the Covid-19 Outbreak: Evidence from the UK Ben Etheridge and Lisa Spantig
- The impact of Covid-19 on gender equality. Titan Alon, Matthias Doepke, Jane Olmstead-Rumsey and Michèle Tertilt
- The impact of Covid-19 on the US child care market: Evidence from stay-at-home orders. Umair Ali, Chris M. Herbst, and Christos A. Makridis
- COVID-19 Salgininin Kadinlarin Calisma ve Hane Yasami Uzerine Etkileri. Ayse Aylin Bayar, Oner Guncavdi, Haluk Levent

Weeks 4-5: Labor Market Issues

1. Remote Work
2. Labor Market Effects
3. Unemployment

Readings

- Working from Home Across Countries. Charles Gottlieb, Jan Grobovsek and Markus Poschke
- Who can work from home in developing countries? Fernando Saltiel
- COVID-19 and Remote Work: An Early Look at US Data. Eric Brynjolfsson, John Horton, Adam Ozimek, Daniel Rock, Garima Sharma, Hong Yi Tu Ye
- Why Can't Everybody Work Remotely? Blame the Robots. Ahmed S. Rahman
- Self-employment in the Covid-19 crisis: a CEP Covid-19 analysis. Jack Blundell and Stephen Machin
- Koronavirus salgini esitsizlikleri arttirabilir. Bilim Akademisi Sarkac. Ugur Aytun, Cem Ozguzel
- Twin Peaks: Covid-19 and the Labor Market. Jake Bradley, Alessandro Ruggieri and Adam H. Spencer
- Who Suffers from the COVID-19 Shocks? Labor Market Heterogeneity and Welfare Consequences in Japan. Shinnosuke Kikuchi, Sagiri Kitao and Minamo Mikoshiba
- Labor Demand in the time of COVID-19: Evidence from vacancy postings and UI claims. Eliza Forsythea, Lisa B. Kahn, Fabian Lange, David Wiczer.
- Labor markets during the Covid-19 crisis: A preliminary view. Olivier Coibion, Yuriy Gorodnichenko and Michael Weber
- The impact of shutdown policies on unemployment during a pandemic. Edward Kong, Daniel Prinz

Weeks 5-6: Other Effects and Determinants

1. Financial Effects
2. Effects of Lockdowns
3. Effects on Inequality

Readings

- The stock market is not the economy? Insights from the Covid-19 crisis. Gunther Capelle-Blancard, Adrien Desroziers
- Six-country survey on Covid-19. Michèle Belot, Eline van den Broek-Altenburg, Syngjoo Choi, Julian C. Jamison, Nicholas W. Papageorge and Egon Tripod
- How does household spending respond to an epidemic? Consumption during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. Scott R. Baker, Robert A. Farrokhnia, Steffen Meyer, Michaela Pagel, Constantine Yannelis
- Wage inequality and poverty effects of lockdown and social distancing in Europe. Juan C. Palomino, Juan G. Rodríguez and Raquel Sebastian

- The effect of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic on Income Inequality: Evidence from Italy Sergio Galletta and Tommaso Giommoni
- School disruption and pupil academic outcomes ? evidence from the 2001 foot and mouth disease epidemic in England. Will Cook
- Are Responses to the Pandemic Inclusive? A Rapid Virtual Audit of COVID-19 Press Briefings in LMICs. Jaclyn Yap, Vandana Chaudhry, Chandan Jha, Subha Mani, Sophie Mitra
- Short-Run Environmental Effects of COVID-19: Evidence from Forest Fires. Jayash Paudel
- Spreading the disease: The role of culture Ioannis Laliotis and Dimitrios Minos
- From Fear to Hate: How the COVID-19 Pandemic Sparks Racial Animus in the United States Runjing Lu and Yanying Sheng
- The economic effects of Covid-19 containment measures. Pragyant Deb, Davide Furceri, Jonathan D. Ostry and Nour Tawk
- COVID-19 in emerging markets: firm-survey evidence Thorsten Beck, Burton Flynn and Mikael Homanen
- Consumer panic in the Covid-19 pandemic. Michael Keane and Timothy Neal
- Globalization in the Time of COVID-19. Alessandro Sforza and Marina Steininger

Week 5-6: Public Health Aspects

- Optimal COVID-19 quarantine and testing policies Facundo Piguillem and Liyan Shi
- Covid-19: Testing Inequality in New York City Stephanie Schmitt-Grohé, Ken Teoh and Martín Uribe
- Social capital and the spread of Covid-19: Insights from European countries Alina Kristin Bartscher, Sebastian Seitz, Sebastian Sieglöcher, Michaela Slotwinski and Nils Wehrhöfer
- Socioeconomic determinants of Covid-19 infections and mortality: Evidence from England and Wales Filipa Sá
- Widespread Testing is associated with lower COVID-19 case fatality rates: Evidence from 39 Countries. Abdullah Yalaman, Gokce Basbug, Ceyhan Elgin, Alison P. Galvani
- Cultural differences in COVID-19 spread and policy compliance: evidence from Switzerland Fabrizio Mazzonna
- Tracking COVID-19 Spread in Italy with Mobility Data. Nuriye Melisa Bilgin