Syllabus
[cmcd.economia@fgv.br]

Course: Economics of Crime
Professor: Nicolas Ajzenman

2020 SECOND SEMESTER

PROGRAM

The aim of this course (which is a "topics" course) is to provide students with the analytic tools and frameworks (both theoretical and empirical) to analyze crime through an economics perspective. The class will cover: (a) the standard topics on the criminal justice system (incarceration, policing, deterrence vs incapacitation), (b) economics of drug-trafficking, (c) the relationship between violence and social factors (poverty, education, inequality, social programs, etc), (d) behavioral economics and crime, (e) Racial Bias in Policing and (f) policy analysis: what works in reducing crime.

The classes will try and cover many of the latest relevant methodological advances in studying causes and consequences of crime, including RCT's, non-experimental methods and non-parametric models to study the geography of crime

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This course will be entirely based on papers to be defined throughout the semester. Some useful surveys are the following:

- Chalfin, A., & McCrary, J. (2017). Criminal deterrence: A review of the literature. *Journal of Economic Literature*, *55*(1), 5-48.
- Lofstrom, M., & Raphael, S. (2016). Crime, the criminal justice system, and socioeconomic inequality. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, *30*(2), 103-26.
- Draca, M., & Machin, S. (2015). Crime and economic incentives. Annual Review of Economics, 7, 389-408
- [non-academic book] Owens, E. G., & Donohue III, J. J. (2013). *Lessons from the economics of crime: What reduces offending?*. MIT Press.

Other useful resource: how to give an applied micro talk? by Jesse Shapiro:

https://www.brown.edu/Research/Shapiro/pdfs/applied_micro_slides.pdf

GRADING

There will not be a final exam. Instead, a goal of this class is to trigger you to think on a project that you would like to work on, so a big part of the grade will be based on the quality of your research proposal (both the document and the presentation). The proposal has to be technically good but also feasible. It could be theoretical or empirical. In case it is empirical, you will have to be very specific in terms of the data you are going to use (it has to exist) or, if it is an experiment the design and the organization you are going to work with (which also has to exist). If it is an RCT, you will have to include in your proposal a

pre-analysis plan (this check-list by David McKenzie should help https://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/a-pre-analysis-plan-checklist)

- 2 referee reports (25% each)

- Research Proposal Presentation (15%)

- Research proposal (35%)

PROFESSOR - EMAILS

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