Statistical Consulting Research Seminar (a revision of E10.2101)  Fall 2010
Course Time and Location:
   TBD (3 hours, once a week)
   TBD
Instructors:  Jennifer Hill, Jack Buckley
Office Hours:  TBD

Course Description and Prerequisites:
In this course students will have the opportunity both to present and defend their own scholarly work-in-progress as well as to critique and provide constructive suggestions for their fellow students. The focus of critiques and suggestions will be on the research methods and other statistical issues. Students will additionally benefit from being able to observe how the participating faculty diagnose and solve statistical issues that arise in others’ presented work and to benefit from this advice in their own work. In essence this course provides training in statistical consulting along with detailed feedback on one’s dissertation research.

The prerequisite for this course is intermediate and advanced quantitative methods (E10.2003, E10.2004) or the equivalent as approved by the instructor. In addition, one ‘specialized’ topic in advanced quantitative methods or equivalent is required. Examples include multi-level models (E10.2040 or E10.2042), classification and clustering (E10.2011), causal inference (E10.2012), and missing data (E10.2013).

Grading:
There is both a 1 credit and a 3 credit option for this course. All students are required to attend each class. For the one-credit option, students will be required to present their own work once (45 minute presentation) and to play the role of formal discussant once for someone else’s presentation. In addition, short, written prospectus of their proposed research before and after their critique will be submitted. For the three-credit option, students will be additionally required to submit a piece of written work modeled after either the ‘methods’ or the ‘results and discussion’ section of a journal article and to critique (in writing) the written work of one other member of the class.

Both the oral and written presentations will be graded on the basis of clarity, depth and completeness.

Reading materials
Paper drafts provided by the class participants. Journal articles may be assigned as supplementary reading – the exact titles will depend on the students’ research areas.

Class schedule
Each class, including the first, will follow the same format: two students will present a proposal for their research methodology and another student will critique it. This is followed by a formal critique by the instructor(s). Before the first class in each term, two students will be contacted to prepare presentations for the first class (to yield the optimal amount of time of feedback throughout the term). A final paper discussing a revised set of approaches to the student’s research is due on the day the university designates for the final exam.