Literature list (preliminary, subject to change):

1. **Framing Causality**

   **Class Objectives:** Introduction, Defining causality, Neyman/Fisher/Rubin causal framework, SUTVA

   **Reading: Methodology**


   Salacious rumors suggest these chapters may appear online at this [place](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25053940).

   **Reading: Application (Read one)**


   **Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading**


2. **Promises and Pitfalls of Randomization**

   **Class Objectives:** SUTVA, strength and weaknesses of randomization in general, regression formulation of randomized trials, selection bias and randomization

   **Readings: Methodology**

   Morgan, Stephen L. and Christopher Winship. *Counterfactuals and Causal Inference: Methods and Principles for Social Research*. Chapters 1-2 (2.4 through the end).

   Salacious rumors suggest these chapters may appear online at this [place](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25053940).

   **Readings: Application (Read One)**

section 4. You may also consider Deaton and Cartwright (2016) 

Heckman and Urzua (2009)," Journal of Economic Literature, American Economic Association, 
vol. 48(2), pages 399-423, June.

Lawrence J. Schweinhart, Jeanne Montie, Zongping Xiang, William S. Barnett, Clive R. Belfield, and 
Milagros Noreis. Lifetime effects: The High/Scope Perry Preschool study through age 40. 

Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading

www.mit.edu/files/806 Sections 2.1 and 2.2. Useful alternative to chapter 2 of 
Morgan/Winship.


Statistics, 6, 34-58.

Weili Ding & Steven Lehrer, 2005. "Class Size and Student Achievement: Experimental Estimates of 
Who Benefits and Who Loses from Reductions," Working Papers 1046, Queen’s University, 
Department of Economics.

3. Building Blocks of Experiments

Class Objectives: Experiment design; Role of partnerships; Pre-Experiment Checklists

Readings: Methodology

Coffman, Lucas C., and Muriel Niederle. "Pre-Analysis Plans Have Limited Upside, Especially Where 

www.mit.edu/files/806 Sections 3.1 and 3.2 and 2.5.

Olken, Benjamin A. "Promises and Perils of Pre-Analysis Plans." The Journal of Economic 

Readings: Application (Read One)

Dynarski, Susan, Joshua Hyman and Diane Schanzenbach. Experimental Evidence on the Effect of 
Childhood Investments on Postsecondary Attainment and Degree Completion. 2013. Journal of 

Hanushek, Eric A. "The Economics of Schooling: Production and Efficiency in Public 
Schools." Journal of Economic Literature 24, no. 3 (1986): 1141-177. 


4. The Basic Experiment & Its Stratified Cousin

Class Objectives: Unit of Randomization – Individual Randomization and Stratified-Individual 
Randomization

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading

Cox, D. R. (1958). Planning of Experiments, New York: Wiley, chapters 1, 2 and 5. Chapter 1 will be discussed in the lecture

5. **Clustered Designs**

*Class Objectives:* Cluster Randomized Trials

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading


Choosing A Design.

Class Objectives: Choosing a Design, Hybrid Designs, Costs

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


6. Other Design Considerations.

Class Objectives: Blocking and Uneven Probabilities in Lotteries, Dosage, Other Extensions, Covariates

Readings: Methodology

Course Notes on Randomization. Posted on Canvas.


Readings: Application (Read One)

Fryer, Levitt, and List. Stereotype Threat.

Taylor and Walton. Stereotype Threat


7. Randomization isn’t Random.

Class Objectives: Conducting Randomization, Internal Validity, Attrition

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading


8. Life after the Lottery.

Class Objectives: Attrition, Verifying Randomization, Multiple Comparisons, Pre-Lottery Data Fidelity and Data Collection within Experiment, Compliance

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


Angrist, Joshua et al. “LEAD THEM TO WATER AND PAY THEM TO DRINK: AN EXPERIMENT WITH SERVICES AND INCENTIVES FOR COLLEGE ACHIEVEMENT” Download.


Class Objectives: Fidelity and Data Collection within Experiment, Compliance

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)


10. Interpretation and Bias.
Class Objectives: TOT vs ITT, Threats to Validity, Hawthorne Effects, John Henry Effects, Contamination, General Equilibrium

Readings: Methodology


Readings: Application (Read One)

Levitt, Steven and John List, “Was There Really a Hawthorne Effect at the Hawthorne Plant?” NBER working paper number 15016.


Class Objectives: Downstream Outcomes and Bounding, Leftovers

Readings: Methodology

Readings: Application (Read One)


Practical Applications
Class Objectives: Practical Considerations

Readings: Methodology

Readings: Application (Read One)


Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading


Other Readings

These are readings that I had assigned at various points in my class in years past. They are useful but do not fit naturally in the class curriculum. I’ve listed them here for your reference.

Non-Required, Interesting, Useful, Ambitious, Need-to-do-once-in-a-life Reading


