Econ 690 - Understanding Social and Economic Data

"Understanding Social and Economic Data" is designed to provide students a detailed overview of the US federal statistical system, where data comes from and how it can be used for research. The course also aims to teach students basic and advanced techniques for acquiring and transforming raw information into social and economic data. It is taught as a mixture of self-guided online videos (MOOC-style) together with in-classroom discussions of the material. Students from multiple universities, scattered across the country and participating via videoconference, and from multiple domains (economics, demography, geography, statistics) contribute to the discussion. The course is also known as INFO7470 at Cornell, the host university. This class is a unique opportunity to learn from experts across the U.S. in both top research universities and in the Federal Government.

A detailed summary is available here. The full on-line syllabus is here. Class meets weekly on Thursday from 4:25 to 6:30 p.m., in Gross Hall 230C where two way video will link all the participating universities into a single "virtual classroom." This class is not a self-study course. Attendance in the "virtual classroom" is mandatory.

This class is being offered in conjunction with the Triangle Federal Statistical Research Data Center, located in SSRI's Gross Hall space at Duke. This is the fourth time Duke has participated in this unique type of course offering; Econ 690 is listed on the Fall 2017 catalog by the Duke registrar (full semester graduate credit – advanced undergrads with permission). If you would like to attend this course contact

Prof. Gale Boyd gale.boyd@duke.edu or Alexandra Cooper, cooper@duke.edu, for more details.