

# Syllabus for ECON 4818 Introduction to Econometrics

ECON 4818001 MWF 11:00-11:50AM ECON117

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## Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the theory and applications of econometric analysis.

The course has a strong applied emphasis. ~~T~~read the relevant ~~textbook chapters~~ and complete the assigned homework.

Reading the textbook is essential for success in this class. After each class you should review your lecture notes and read the relevant sections in the textbook. This will prepare you for the next class, so that you can participate in class discussions and follow the presentation of the new material, which builds upon concepts from the previous class.

## Prerequisites:

ECON 3818 Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications, or its equivalent. ~~These~~ prerequisites will be strictly enforced. If you are enrolled in this course without the required prerequisites, you will be administratively dropped, which can occur at any point during the semester.

## Required Text:

Introductory Econometrics : A Modern Approach, 6th edition, by Jeffrey Wooldridge. ~~You~~ can also use the older edition.

Again, reading the textbook is essential for success in this class.

## Software:

The data analysis in this class will require the use of Excel. We will also use the DataAnalysis Toolpak in Excel, an Excel Add-in.

Disclaimer for Mac users: The DataAnalysis Toolpak is available for Excel 2016. The DataAnalysis Toolpak does not work with older versions of Excel ~~Mac~~. If you have an older version of Excel for Mac, you are encouraged to use the PCs in the computer labs on campus to complete your Excel homework assignments. Alternatively, Mac users can purchase

MegaStat for Mac. The cost is low – around \$10. When you purchase the download, you may see a message that you have only about 10 days to use the downloaded software but you will actually have it for the life of your computer. You can purchase MegaStat here:  
[http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0077425995/information\\_center\\_view0/](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0077425995/information_center_view0/)

We will have in-class Excel labs for which you will have to bring a laptop in order to complete the assigned Excel work. Some of the Excel labs will be targeted at improving your general Excel skills. In other labs you will practice doing statistical analysis in Excel. Your Excel work will not be graded.

In class I will regularly demonstrate regression analyses and statistical tests using Excel. I will post all Excel files that I have used in class on D2L. You are advised to take notes in class and redo the Excel analyses after class. Don't hesitate to see me in my office hours if you need Excel help.

#### Grading:

Your grades will be assigned based on the following break down:

Midterm 1	.....	20%
Midterm 2	.....	20%
Team homework	.....	20%
Attendance	.....	5%
Participation	.....	5%
Final exam	.....	30%

These are the only factors that will be used to determine your course grade. There will be no extra credit.

#### Exams:

There will be two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. The exams will cover material from lectures, the textbook, and homework.

Midterm 1: Friday, February 24th

Midterm 2: Friday, April 7th

Final exam: Sunday May 7th 7:30–10:00 p.m.

#### Team homework assignments:

I will post homework assignments on D2L. Your homework assignments will be done in teams of 3 or 4 students. You are free to form your own team. Each team will submit one copy of the completed assignments through D2L and bring a printout to class.

Freeriding is strongly discouraged. Please contact me ASAP if any issues arise within your team.

At the end of the semester, your contribution to the teamwork will be subject to confidential peer evaluation. Your individual homework score will be determined in the following way. 50% of your score will be based on the team homework score, and the remaining 50% will be the team homework score weighed by your average peer evaluation. For example, if a team

homework score is 90 out of 100, you evaluate your contribution with 100% and your three team mates evaluate your contribution with 100%, 100% and 80%. Then your overall homework score is  $50\%(90) + 50\%(90)(100\% + 100\% + 100\% + 80\%)/4 = 87.75$  out of 100.

#### End-of-Chapter Practice Problems

I will post answers to the odd-numbered end-of-chapter problems in the textbook. You are expected to work through these problems to ensure mastery of the material. Try to do the problems without looking at the answers right away. I will not collect your work on these problems. These are good practice problems for the exam. You are advised to work on those problems.

#### Attendance and in-class participation:

I will take attendance. I will take attendance either at the beginning or at the end of class. It is your responsibility to be in class on time and to sign the attendance sheet. If you are late to class and attendance has already been taken, you can't sign the attendance sheet for that day. You are allowed to miss two classes. Each additional recorded absence will reduce your attendance score. If you miss more than 20% of classes (3 weeks or 6 classes) you will receive an F grade for this course. These absences include valid (sickness, weather, emergencies) and invalid reasons for not being in class.

Your participation in class discussions is essential for enhancing your and your classmates' learning experience in this class. Your participation will not be graded as right or wrong, but

Please bring name tents to class as I will try to learn your names and will need the name tents for our daily in-class discussions.

### Classroom Behavior

Please turn off your laptop and your phone before the beginning of class. Please do not engage in any non course-related activities during class. This is distracting to me and your classmates.

### Tentative Course Outline

1. The Simple Regression Model (Chapter 2)
2. Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation (Chapter 3)
3. Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference (Chapter 4)
4. Multiple Regression Analysis: Further Issues (Chapter 6)
5. Multiple Regression Analysis with Qualitative Information: Binary Variables (Chapter 7)
6. Heteroskedasticity (Chapter 8)
7. More on Specification and Data Problems (Chapter 9)
8. Additional Multiple Regression Analysis Issues.

### Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services

