

Syllabus for ECON 4818 Introduction to Econometrics

ECON 4818 003 T, Th 9:30-10:45 DUANG131

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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. We will use Excel for data analysis. This course will provide you with the opportunity to improve your competence and acquire new skills in Excel.

This is a rigorous course and my expectations are high. I expect that you will attend lectures, participate in class discussions, read the relevant textbook chapters through the end-of-chapter problems, and complete the assigned homework.

Reading the textbook is essential for success in this course. 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

MegaStat for Mac. The cost is low – around \$15. 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/

We will have inclass 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 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: Thursday September 29th

Midterm 2: Thursday, November 3rd

Final exam: Sunday Dec 11, 4:30:00

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 teams. Each team will submit one copy of the

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 9 classes) you will receive an F grade for this course. These absences include both 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 rather I will evaluate the quality of your critical thinking, your willingness and ability to apply learned concepts and your use of learned terminology. Making mistakes is part of learning. So, don't be shy, speak out and get more out of this class! On random dates I will record your participation.

Preparing for class:

The material in this class builds upon material from previous lectures. Before you come to class I expect you to review and master the material from previous classes. This includes studying the lecture notes and the textbook. It is critical for your ability to engage in class discussions and to understand the new material that is presented in class. You learn best if you don't simply take notes in class but also understand the statistical analyses that I will present in class and why they are needed.

If you struggle with the material or even if you have minor questions about it, see me in office hours ASAP. Do not wait until the day before an exam!

Communication:

I am available to answer questions related to the course material and the homework. The best way to contact me is to see me in office hours. You can also email me with short and well-defined questions. I will try to respond to your emails promptly during business hours. Please include ECON 4818 in the subject line.

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