

ECON 4750

Introduction to Econometrics
Course Syllabus

Fall 2010
TTH, 200-315
Baldwin 101B

INSTRUCTOR

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Office hours

Friday, 130-330

and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ECON 4750 provides an introduction to the specification and estimation of linear regression models, with emphasis on least-squares and its performance under different statistical assumptions. A hands-on approach is taken, stressing applications to empirical problems in economics and business. STAT 2000 or MSIT 3000 is a prerequisite.

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Students will learn how to specify and estimate linear regression models and test hypotheses about model parameters under different statistical assumptions.

COURSE MATERIAL

Required text: Wooldridge, J., *Introductory Econometrics*, Thomson, 4e.

[[Amazon link](#) | [publisher link](#)]

In addition, you will be assigned selected articles from the scholarly literature. See the Course Schedule for details.

SOFTWARE

A great deal of the learning in ECON 4750 is accomplished through empirical projects that require the use of statistical software. The software of choice for this class is [Stata](#). Because of our institutional arrangement with Stata, you can [purchase](#) a license to use the “IC” version (which is “standard” Stata) for 6 months for only \$65. If you anticipate using the skills acquired in this class in other coursework or research, you might consider purchasing a one-year license for \$98.

You will find resources for learning [how to use Stata](#) on my useful links page.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

1. Statistics review
 - a. Estimation
 - b. Inference
2. Cross-section regression
 - a. Simple regression
 - b. Multiple regression
 - c. Dummy variables
 - d. Proxy variables and measurement error
 - e. Heteroscedasticity
3. Time-series regression
 - a. Implications for OLS
 - b. Trending series
 - c. Autocorrelation
4. Advanced topics (time permitting)
 - a. Instrumental variables
 - b. Panel data
 - c. Limited dependent variables

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

Performance will be evaluated on the basis of 3 problem sets and a final exam, weighted as follows:

Component	Weight
homework	.25
midterm exam	.25
final exam	.25
project	.25

You will be ranked relative to other students in the class according to your overall performance and grades assigned based on your class rank. I will use the plus/minus system to make distinctions within grade categories.

Class Attendance

Regular class attendance is expected. [UGA academic regulations](#) authorize a professor to withdraw students with excessive absences and I will exercise that authority.

Exam Dates & Policies

The final exam is scheduled for **Tue, Dec 3 at 330p.**

Failure to take the final exam at the scheduled time will result in a grade of zero. There are 2 and only 2 exceptions to this rule: (1) if the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs verifies that you have another exam scheduled for the same time or three exams scheduled on the same day, or (2) if you have a *documented* family emergency or personal illness. In the case of (2), you must resolve the situation as promptly as possible.

If you know now that you will not be able to take the final exam at the scheduled time, then you should drop this course.

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE & ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.