Overview of the course

This course is an introduction to applying statistical techniques to economic issues. The course will cover practical methods for organizing and analyzing economic data, testing economic hypotheses, and measuring economic relationships. Regression analysis is the main empirical method, and basic statistical and probability theory is included.

I understand that this description may make the course sound difficult, or maybe even boring. It is my job to prove to you that econometrics is (1) accessible and (2) interesting and useful.

Grading and Expectations

The grading of the course is straightforward.

- Homework - 20%
- Midterm Exam 1 - 25%
- Midterm Exam 2 - 25%
- Final Exam - 30%

Students on the margin between letter grades will be bumped higher or lower depending on the trend of their grades relative to the rest of the class. Soon, you will realize why I will not bump or lower grades based on how many questions a student asks, or some other measure of class participation. (However, you should definitely ask questions if you have them!!)

There will be two midterm exams, and one comprehensive final. The midterm exams will be held on Friday, May 2nd, and Friday, May 23rd, both during class. The final will be scheduled according to the university calendar (Monday, June 9, 12:00-3:00 P.M.). You have a week from the first day of class to tell me if you plan to miss either exam. I reserve the right to accept or reject your reason. For example, having other exams on that day is not an excuse. However, I’ll be reasonable. Emergencies are the only reasonable last-minute excuse.
We have some outstanding TAs to guide you through the details of the course and its material. The TAs will work through problems different from class, and treat section-specific problems as they come up. The TAs are Robert Baden (rbaden@ucsc.edu), and Sanchita Mukherjee (sanchita@ucsc.edu)

**Cheating**

I will not tolerate cheating. Don’t try. If you are caught, you will fail the course and be reported for academic misconduct.

**Regrades**

If you feel like you have been given too few points on an assignment or exam, you may submit a regrade. However, you must use the following procedure in submitting a regrade. First, look at the answer key!!! You would be surprised how many people submit regrades without looking at the correct answer, first. After doing so, if you still feel that more points are deserved, you must write a clearly worded page or two explaining your answer, and why you think it is correct. If the TAs unanimously decide that your answer deserves more credit, I will review their conclusion and then assign points as necessary.

**Book**

The book for the course will be "Introductory Econometrics" by Jeffrey Wooldridge. It is available at Bay Tree, and any of the online outlets (Amazon, for example). It is fairly expensive. However, it is a very useful resource, especially if you hope to work in a field that uses any sort of data analysis. Used copies are fine, but PLEASE get the 3rd edition. The homeworks will be taken from the 3rd edition. Also, avoid getting the international edition, since it is different.

Lectures will cover everything. Exam and homework material will be based on both lecture material and book material.

**Office hours and Final Thoughts**

My office hours will be 9-11AM on Mondays. My office is 453, Engineering 2. My email is acspearot@gmail.com. I expect to get a ton of emails. I’ll answer them as soon as I can. It is better to ask questions in person, as they won’t get lost in my inbox. Finally, relax and enjoy the class. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to bring them up. This course is for you to learn more than it is for me to teach. If it is not working for you, let me know, and I’ll make every effort to make things better.

**MSI Office Hours**

There are supplemental office hours available through the MSI program. The instructor is Morris Chow. His email is mc44693@ucsc.edu. Office hours are TBA. Try to make good use of this valuable resource.