

**Syllabus**  
**Econ 321: Introduction to Econometrics**  
**Winter 2012**

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Class Schedule: MW 2:30 pm-3:50 pm, in PAS 2083

Office hours: Tuesdays 9:30am to noon.  
Please feel free to email me to set up an appointment if these hours do not fit your schedule.

**Course Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the main concepts and tools used in econometrics. In particular, we will learn when and how to apply multivariate regression analysis. We will see the basic assumptions and techniques used to run estimations and make inferences in the context of a linear equation framework. We will learn to recognize specification and data problems and what to do about it. We will see additional tools to handle time series and panel data. Each topic will be approached with a mix of intuitive explanations, theoretical characterization and practical applications, including interpretation of regression output.

**Prerequisites** Econ 221 or equivalent

**Required Readings** “Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach” by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge (3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> edition). It is also on reserve at the Dana Porter Library.

**Planned Topics (with references to Wooldridge’s chapters)**

	Topics	Tests/Assignments
Week 1-2	The Nature of Data Analysis (Chapter 1 + Appendices B & C)	
Week 2-3	Simple Regression Analysis (Chapter 2)	
Week 3-4	Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation (Chapter 3)	Test 1: Feb 1st
Week 5	Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference (Chapter 4)	
Week 6-7	Multiple Regression Analysis: Further Issues (Chapter 6-7)	A1: Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Week 8-9	Heteroscedasticity, Specification and Data Problems (Chapter 8-9)	Test 2: March 7 <sup>th</sup>
Week 10-12	Applications (Chapter 10, Chapter 15)	A2: April 2 <sup>nd</sup>

**Student Responsibilities**

There will be two term tests. The first one will be on Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> and the second term test will be on Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>. Both term tests will be during class hours in the usual classroom. Students must write **at least one** term test to pass this course.

Two assignments will be given during the term. Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the due date. Most of these assignments require students to use data and the statistical software program STATA. STATA is available in the following Arts computing labs: PAS 1237, PAS 1098

and HH236. You can also buy a small version of it through the course grad plan. The information is at <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplan.html>.

Notes and other material will be posted on LEARN. Users can login to LEARN via: <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/>. Use your WatIAM/Quest username and password Documentation is available at: [http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training\\_documentation/index.html](http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/index.html)

### **Classroom Expectations**

Turn off and do not answer your cell phone. Laptop computers are not permitted in class unless the student can show that it is used for the purpose of note taking.

Complete assignments on time. Be on time for class. Unforeseen events occur and students have multiple demands on their time. If you must arrive late or leave early, provide advance notice to the instructors whenever possible.

### **Grading**

Although group work is permitted and encouraged, students must submit separate assignments for evaluation purposes. Any assignment submitted late will receive a points penalty.

The course grade will be computed based on two possible weighting schemes:

#### Scheme 1

Assignments	20% (A1=10%, A2=10%)
Term Test 1	25%
Term Test 2	25%
Final Examination	30%

#### Scheme 2

Assignments	20% (A1=10%, A2=10%)
Term Test 1 or Test 2	25%
Final Examination	55%

The final grade will be based on the maximum of the grades under each scheme.

### **Missed Exam**

There is no make- up exam for the term tests. Students will be graded on the alternative scheme (scheme 2). **At least one term test** must be taken to pass the course.

A student who has been ill (documentation required, no photocopies, only original documents) and has missed the scheduled final exam **MUST** petition the department **within five calendar days** to write the departmental deferred examination. If the student has failed to write the departmental deferred examination, the student will automatically receive a grade of 0 for the missed deferred final examination.

### **Avoidance of Academic Offenses**

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their

academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71, Student Academic Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71, Student Academic Discipline <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>. If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are the graduate advisor and the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs. Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

### **Note for Students with Disabilities**

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.