

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 321: Introduction to Econometrics (Section 2)
Course Outline – Winter 2012

Instructor: Emmanuelle Piérard

Office: HH 209

Email: epierard@uwaterloo.ca. When emailing the instructor, the subject line of the email must contain ECON 321. You can only email the instructor regarding personal issues, e.g. why you will not be able to attend a midterm. **I will not answer any question about the material or the structure of midterms, the final, etc. through email.** Please use this address rather than the ACE one.

Phone: 519-888-4567 ext. 37712

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-4 pm and by appointment.

Schedule: 1:00-2:20 Tuesday and Thursday

Room: RCH 211

Note that classes will not be held during reading week (February 20th-24th)

An introductory course in the theory and practice of econometrics, focusing on multiple regression analysis and associated topics such as multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity and serial correlation. Simultaneous equation models will also be introduced. (From the undergraduate calendar)

Prerequisites: ECON 221 or equivalent.

Evaluation: 3 Assignments, 2 tests and a final exam
Thursday January 26th, 2012
Thursday March 1st, 2012

The three assignments will be given a weight of 5% each, for a total of 15%. The two tests will be given a weight of 15% and 20% each (the best one for each individual counts for more). The final exam, which will be held during the exam period in April, will be given a weight of 50%. In order to pass the course, you must obtain a mark of at least 40% on the final. Note that there will be a bonus assignment worth 3 marks for this class. More details will be provided later in the term.

Policy on missed classes: Although presence in class is not required, it is highly recommended to attend classes. If you miss a class, you are responsible for making up for it, whatever the circumstances. I will not answer to emails and phone calls asking for information regarding the material covered in class. During the last 24 hours before a midterm or final, I will not answer to questions concerning material covered in class if you were absent.

Assignments are due at the **beginning of class on the due date**. No assignment will be accepted after the correction of the assignment in class (on the due date) therefore, such assignments will receive a mark of zero. Collaboration on assignments is highly encouraged but plagiarism is not. You must hand in your own hand-written (except for the computer part) copy of the assignment. Assignments will contain both an analytic part and a computer based part, for

which you must use Stata. If you wish to use a different software package than Stata, you must obtain the agreement of the instructor **before doing the assignment**. The instructor and TA will **not** provide any support in the use of other software packages than Stata. Stata can be purchased through a grad plan at lower prices than the list price (please see ACE on this) and is available in most arts computing labs (HH 236, PAS-1237 and 1098). Stating who you worked with on the assignment is optional. You can purchase Stata, the software used to conduct regression analysis in this class from <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/cgpcampus-order.html>. After ordering from the Stata website, you can pick up your software at the CHIP office (MC1052). Please use your common sense when asking me to re-grade assignments.

Policy on Missed Tests: No make-up tests will be provided. Students who do not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on any missed test and their final grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. For students who miss a test (or more) and have a relevant medical certificate for all tests missed, the weight of the missed test(s) will be transferred to the final. You must provide supporting documentation within **5 calendar days** of the day of the midterm or exam, if you want the weight to be transferred to the final, for midterms, or if you want to write a make-up final, for the final. The instructor reserves the right to deny you these privileges if the documentation is not provided in a timely fashion.

Policy on remarking of Tests: If you feel that your test was not marked properly, you must advise the instructor within 10 calendar days of the test being handed back to the students in class. Note that if you want your test re-graded, I will remark the entire test (your mark may go up or down as a result of this).

Textbook (required): Wooldridge, Jeffrey M., *Introductory Econometrics – A modern approach*, 4th edition, 2006, 890 p.

The text is on reserve (3 hours) at the Dana Porter Library. Additional materials may also be put on reserve at Dana Porter Library as the term progresses. There are very few differences between the 3rd and 4th edition of the text. You must however ensure that you have access to the 1Pass (distributed with new textbooks); some of the datasets used for assignments will come from the 1Pass.

Topics covered:

Introduction and Review of basic statistics: Chapter 1 and Appendices B & C

Simple regression analysis: Chapter 2

Multiple Regression analysis: Chapters 3, 4, 6 & 7

Specification & data problems: Chapter 8, 9 and 12

Time Series Regressions: Chapters 10 & 11

I will post class announcements, notes, assignments and other relevant material on the Desire2Learn network (learn.uwaterloo.ca).

Note on the use of cell phones in class: Students who use cell phones during class time will be asked to leave.

Note on the use of recording devices in class: The use of these is prohibited during class time. If you have a disability documented by the OPD that warrants the use of a tape recorder in class, you must provide the documentation proving this in order to be allowed to record classes.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic Integrity website (Arts): http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (UW): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

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.

Note on the scheduling of midterms, exams and religious holidays: If an exam or midterm falls on the day of a religious holiday which is not observed by the university and you anticipate this

to be a problem, you must consult with the associate dean of the faculty of Arts regarding other arrangements. You have 1 week after the announcement of the date of the midterm/exam to make a request of rescheduling based on these grounds (i.e. you have one week after the first class for midterms and one week after the schedule of the finals is publicized for the final exam). This is the University's policy.