

Economics 120A – Econometrics
Fall 2008
MWF 3:00 – 3:50 pm, Solis Hall 107

Instructor

Maria Teresa Cândido
Office: 110A Economics
Office Phone #: 534-2518
Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 1:00 - 2:30 pm
Email: mcandido@econ.ucsd.edu

Teaching Assistants

Wei, Xiahua (Anny) xiwei@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Thu 3:30 – 5:00 pm (Sequoyah Hall 227)

Shim, Myungkyu mkshim@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tue 2:30 – 4:00 pm (Economics 114)

Discussion Sections

Thursday 6:00 – 6:50 pm, Warren Lecture Hall 2005
Thursday 7:00 – 7:50 pm, Warren Lecture Hall 2005

Econ 120A - Econometrics A

Course Description

As the first of the econometrics sequence, this course introduces the science of statistics. It is designed to provide the building blocks necessary to construct rigorous econometric analysis. These building blocks include basic statistics, probability rules, and the formal methods used by statisticians to learn about the real world from the data.

Course Materials

Required Textbook: “Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics” by T.H. Wonnacott and R.J. Wonnacott, Fourth Edition, John Wiley and Sons: New York.

There is a custom version of the book, made specially to UCSD students. This book is exactly the same as the non-custom version, only less expensive.

Chapters on Textbook: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

Required Software: The software for this course is Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program, which is available in the computer laboratory in the Economics Building #100, and in other computer labs on campus.

Course Web Page

A course webpage is available at <http://webct.ucsd.edu>.

It will include information relevant to the course, such as announcements, homework assignments, information on Excel tutorials, practice problem sets, solutions, syllabus, schedule and more. You should check this page regularly.

Lectures and Discussion Sections

It is important to come to every lecture. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and any information provided in class. There are weekly discussion sections for this course. They are not mandatory. However, you are strongly recommended to attend them since the TAs will go over practice problems, the kind of problems you may encounter on exams. You will also be able to ask the TA any question about the material covered in the lectures during these discussion sections. The first discussion section will take place October 9th.

Excel Tutorial Sections

We will provide some excel tutorial sections throughout the quarter so that students can become familiar with the software. Check the course webpage for specific dates and locations for these tutorials. The sections will take place in a computer lab and they will be practical applications of the software. The students will be able to follow and repeat the Excel commands using a computer in the lab.

Homework

There will be two or three homework assignments in this course. You will be required to use Excel to complete them. They will be graded on effort, not on the correctness of answers. If you honestly attempt all the questions in the homework, you will get 100%. Complete all your homework assignments on your own. Remember, homework is assigned to assist you in learning the software and at the same time it is a good check of your understanding of the statistical concepts taught in class.

Grading

Your grade will be based on:
Homework Assignments
Midterm Exams
Final Exam

The midterm exams are scheduled to **Friday, October 24th**, and **Monday, November 17th**, at lecture time. The final exam will take place on **Friday, December 12th** from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm and will be cumulative. The questions asked on exams will be based on lectures, textbook reading and assigned or practice problems.

We will calculate for each student one point total that puts a weight of 10% on homework assignments, 25% on first midterm exam, 25% on second midterm exam, and 40% on final. We will then calculate a second point total that puts a weight of 10% on homework assignments, 25% on the best of the two midterm exams and 65% on the final. Student's grade will be based on the higher of the two numbers.

There are no make-up exams - a missed midterm exam automatically commits a student to the second option. An average of the scores on the homework assignments will be computed and that will be your homework score, worth 10% of your course grade.

The overall course grade, computed as specified above, will be curved. In general, the class average corresponds to the lowest B-.

Tentative Schedule (exams dates will not change)

Days	Topic	Textbook Chapter
Sept 29 th Oct 1 st – Oct 3 rd	Introduction to Statistics Descriptive Statistics	1 2
Oct 6 th Oct 8 th – Oct 10 th	Descriptive Statistics Basic Probability	2 3
Oct 13 th – Oct 17 th	Basic Probability	3
Oct 20 th – Oct 22 nd Fri Oct 24th	Probability Distributions First Midterm Examination	4 1-3, part of 4
Oct 27 th Oct 29 th – Oct 31 st	Probability Distributions Two Random Variables	4 5
Nov 3 rd Nov 5 th – Nov 7 th	Two Random Variables; Sampling Sampling, Central Limit Theorem	5,6 6
Nov 10 th – Nov 14 th	Point Estimation; Law of Large Numbers	7
Mon Nov 17th Nov 19 th – Nov 21 st	Second Midterm Examination Confidence Intervals	4-7 8
Nov 24 th Nov 26 th	Confidence Intervals Hypothesis Testing	8 9
Dec 1 st – Dec 5 th	Hypothesis Testing	9
Fri Dec 12th 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Final Exam	1-9