Economics 120A Syllabus
Econometrics: Basic Probability and Statistics Inference
UCSD Spring 2015

Times and Places
Lectures: MWF 1-1:50p   Warren Lecture Hall 2001
Discussion Sections (attend either one):
                                    Monday 7-7:50pm   Pepper Canyon 109
                                    Monday 8-8:50pm   Pepper Canyon 109
The first discussion section will be held Monday April 6.

Brief Course Description
        As the first course of the econometrics sequence, this course introduces the science of statistics. It provides the building blocks necessary to understand basic analysis of data and introduces the formal methods used by statisticians to learn about the real world from data. These building blocks include basic statistics and probability theory. By the end of the course, students will be expected to understand the foundations of modern statistical analysis.

Required Textbook
        Wonnacott and Wonnacott, Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics, Fourth or Fifth Edition, Wiley and Sons: New York. There is a custom edition for UCSD students, with the same content as the non-custom edition.

Course Website
        I will post announcements, grades, practice problem sets (which will not be collected but will be essential in your preparation for exams), practice exams, and brief answer keys on our course website at Ted. http://ted.ucsd.edu Please use the course email address to ask questions about course content.

Contact Information
        Please use the course email address for all general questions about course content:
Course email address: econ120a.ucsd@gmail.com

		Office Hours	
Instructor: Yuan Emily Tang, Ph.D.	yetang@ucsd.edu	W 9-11a	Econ 109
TAs: Ying (Jenny) Feng	yif014@ucsd.edu	Th 3:30-5:30p	Seq 208
Jungbin Hwang	j6hwang@ucsd.edu	MW 11a-noon	Seq 205
Yanjun (Penny) Liao	yal005@ucsd.edu	TuTh 10-11a	Seq 234
Yann Panassie	yannp@ucsd.edu	F 2-4p	Seq 233

Evaluation
        I will assign letter grades based on your performance on two midterms and one final exam, weighted as follows: Midterm 1: 20%, Midterm 2: 30%, Cumulative Final: 50%

        Midterms will cover incremental material, while the final exam will be cumulative.

        Midterm 1:   Friday April 24   in class
        Midterm 2:   Wednesday May 20   in class
        Final Exam: Thursday June 11   11:30a-2:30p

Policies

Exam dates are not negotiable. If you miss a midterm because of documented illness, sports or legal reasons, then the weight of the missed midterm will be added to the weight of the final exam. If you miss a midterm for any other reason, you will receive a score of zero on that midterm. There are no acceptable reasons for missing the final-- if you miss the final, you will receive a failing grade for the course. If you believe that an exam has not been properly graded, you must discuss this with the grader who graded the relevant part of the exam within two weeks of when exams were first returned to class. A random subset of graded exams will be photocopied, and altering an exam after we have handed them back will be considered academic misconduct. Any student found guilty of academic misconduct will earn a failing grade for the course. In addition to this academic sanction, the Council of Deans of Student Affairs will impose a disciplinary penalty. The final weighted points earned will be curved in the assignment of letter grades; the following apply as the *minimum* of the letter grade you can expect to earn based on the total weighted % of points you earn in the course: 98-100%= A+, 93-97=A, 90-92=A-, 88-89=B+, 83-87=B, 80-82=B-, 78-79=C+, 73-77=C, 70-72=C-, 50-69=D, <50% = F

Course Content

Topic Outline (Preliminary and Subject to Change)

Topic	Chapters in Textbook
Introduction to Statistics	1
Descriptive Statistics	2
Basic Probability	3
Probability Distributions	4
Sampling, Central Limit Theorem	6
Point Estimation, Law of Large Numbers	7
Confidence Intervals	8
Hypothesis Testing	9
Two Random Variables	5