

ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (WINTER 2006)

Foster, UCSD, April 17, 2008

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours

- Carroll B. Foster, Ph.D. (instructor) Telephone: (858) 534-7133
Office hours: MWF, 9-9⁵⁰ am ECON 110C <email still not connected>
- Rosalin Wu (½ ta) T, 2-3 pm ECON 118 <ruwu@ucsd.edu>
- Karim Chalak (½ ta) W, 2-3 pm ECON 122 <kchalak@ucsd.edu>
- Qun Xu (¼ ta) F, 8-9 am SEQ 237 <qxxu@econ.ucsd.edu>

Course Information

- Economic & Business Forecasting (550131) – MWF, 10-10⁵⁰ pm, CENTER 115
- Description – forecasting techniques used in business and government, including simple Box-Jenkins time-series methods. Homework uses EViews and/or STATA programs.
- Prerequisite: Econ 120A-B-C; you may take Ec 120C concurrently.
- Course webpage: www.econ.ucsd.edu (click link “Courses/webpages & office hours”)

Books and Materials

- Hanke & Wichern, *Business Forecasting* (8th ed.) [Bookstore]
- Foster, Ec 178 Course Packet [Soft Reserves]
- Computer accounts [provided in class]
- Statistical tables for exams: standard normal, t, χ^2 , F.

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru Friday, 3 FEB.
- Drop w/o “F” thru Friday, 10 MAR.
- Holidays: M, 16 JAN (MLK); M, 20 FEB (Presidents’ Day).
- Midterm: Wednesday, 15 FEB, in class
- Final: Tuesday, 21 MAR, 8-11 am, CENTER 115 or _____

Grade Scale

<u>Gr</u>	<u>Points</u>
A±	90-99%
B±	81-89%
C±	61-80%
D/F	00-60%

Examinations and Grading

Midterm = 50 points; cumulative/comprehensive final = 150 points; homework = 50 points (after adjustment). Exams open book/notes. Regrade period = 1 week after papers returned. Late homework penalty = ½ score. No late homework accepted after answers posted or papers returned. **No rescheduled or make-up exams.** Cheating = 0 on assignment.¹

COURSE OUTLINE/READING LIST

TOPIC 1 – BASIC CONCEPTS	Ch. 1-3
TOPIC 2 – SMOOTHING & TRENDS	Ch. 4-5
TOPIC 3 – SEASONAL MODELS	Ch. 6-7
TOPIC 4 – FORECAST ACCURACY & MODEL SELECTION	Ch. 8, 10-11
TOPIC 5 – ARIMA I (Stationarity)	Ch. 9
TOPIC 6 – ARIMA II (Identification)	Ch. 9
TOPIC 7 – ARIMA III (Estimation/Diagnostics/Forecasting)	Ch. 9

¹ I give multiple versions of tests. If you have the right answers for some other version, you are busted.