

ECON 120A -- SYLLABUS (WINTER 2018)
Foster, UCSD, January 17, 2018

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 11am by appointment ¹	PEPPER CANYON	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Asad Dossani	See PSET Schedule	ECON 300	adossani@ucsd.edu
Yifei Lyu	See PSET Schedule	ECON 300	ylv@ucsd.edu
Andrea Ding (ug)			a2ding@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMETRICS A
- Lecture: A00 MWF, 8-9 am PEPPER CANYON 122 [n_{max}=110]
 B00 MWF, 9-10 am PEPPER CANYON 122 [n_{max}=110]
- Problem/discussion sections:
 A01 [924078] -- T, 5-6 pm B01 [924081] -- Th, 5-6 pm All sections in
 A02 [924079] -- T, 6-7 pm B02 [924082] -- Th, 6-7 pm PETERSON 102
- Description: Statistics for economists. Probability and sampling theory, statistical inference (estimation and hypothesis testing). Homework uses EXCEL spreadsheets.
- Prerequisites: Math 10C or 20C or 31BH.

Books, Webpage, and Materials

- Wonnacott × 2, *Intro. Statistics for Bus. and Econ.*, 4th ed.
- Bernstein, *Against the Gods*, Wiley, 1998. History of probability. [If you are interested]
- Lecture notes with practice problems, homeworks, syllabus, and probability tables at course website: [HTTP://TRITONED.UCSD.EDU](http://TRITONED.UCSD.EDU)

Course Outline & Reading List (W&W)		
Top 1	PRELIMINARIES ²	Ch. 1
Top 2	DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	Ch. 2
Top 3	PROBABILITY	Ch. 3
Top 4	RANDOM VARIABLES	Ch. 4-5
Top 5	USEFUL DISTRIBUTIONS	§4-3, §4-5
Top 6	SAMPLING DISTRIBUTIONS	Ch. 6
Top 7	ESTIMATION	Ch. 7-8
Top 8	HYPOTHESIS TESTING	Ch. 9

¹ Let me know if you are coming to my office hour. If anyone is coming, I will be sitting on the bench outside PEPPER CANYON 106. Try to be there at 11 am. I can stay until 11³⁰ if students are present.

² Much of this will be introduced in the first two discussion sections.

Calendar

- Holidays: MLK -- Monday 15 JAN; Presidents' Day -- Monday 19 FEB
- Homework due: #1 - W, 24 JAN #2 - W, 28 FEB Bring to ME in CLASS!
- Midterm: Wednesday, 14 FEB, in class
- Final:
 - A00: Monday 19 MAR, 8-11 am in PEPPER CANYON 122
 - B00: Wednesday 21 MAR, 8-11 am in PEPPER CANYON 122

Examinations and Grading

- Exams are open notes/closed book. That is, you may use my TRITONED lectures notes (on paper), and you may write on them. You may NOT consult old exams or Econ Tutor stuff during the exams. Bring stat tables from TRITONED, and a working calculator (any kind).
- Homework = 5 points (adjusted); midterm = 40 points; cumulative final = 80.
- If you arrive late to an exam, I will allow you to take the exam in the time that remains *as long as no one has turned in an exam and left the room*. Once a classmate has turned in an exam, you will not be allowed to begin the exam and will get a zero.
- If you miss the midterm for a **verifiable** sports/legal/medical reason, I will excuse you and base your grade on the final exam and homework.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams, and no incompletes. You MUST take final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week. Plan your schedule accordingly.
- The course is ultimately graded on a curve based on one recommended by the econ department. I don't know exactly what the curve will look like until after the finals are graded.

About Cheating

1. There is a LOT of it at UCSD. Honest students are put at a disadvantage by cheating students, and I hate that. Hence, my exam and scoring rules and restrictions.
2. I routinely give multiple versions of tests. Only the TAs know which version you have.
3. If I suspect a violation of academic integrity, I give you the negative of the question value. In extreme cases, I withhold your score and grade and send your paper to AIC for resolution. AIC will contact you and tell you what to do. Do not try to drop the course. If you are found not guilty, I will reenter your exam score. If you are found guilty, your college will impose penalties, and I give you an F in the course.

The New PSET Tutoring Lab

The Economics Department is making a problem solving and tutoring center available to all students in econometrics (120ABC) on certain evenings and on weekends. (Specific hours for PSET will be posted on the Department web page). The ability to apply the concepts from class to solve problems is the most important skill we want you master in our core classes. PSET is designed to help you learn to tackle problems successfully by having grad and undergrad TAs there to help you think through a problem right when you get stuck.

If you struggle to tackle your homework, we believe that PSET will be an efficient and effective way for you to learn how to think like an economist.

The PSET sessions are in ECON 300, certain afternoons or evenings, plus weekends. Exact times will be posted at the Econ Dept. website.