ECON 178 – ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING
SYLLABUS (WINTER 2010)

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	**Times**	**Room**	**Contact Info**
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Instructor)	MWF, 9^{10} – 10 am	M-o-M Coffee Shop	(858) 534-7133 cfoster@ ucsd.edu
Alberto Rossi	T, 8 - 9 am	ECON 117	agrossi @ ucsd.edu
Dan Lima	m, 2^{30} - 3^{30} pm	ECON 128	dflima@ ucsd.edu
Ben Gilbert	Th, 9^{30} - 10^{30} am	SEQ 225	btgilber@ ucsd.edu

Course Information
- Lecture: (ID = 670209), MWF, 10-10^{50} am, Ledden Auditorium.
- Description: Intro to forecasting (including simultaneous-equation and Box-Jenkins methods). used for sales/marketing forecasts and macroeconomic policy simulation. Homework assignments use STATA and/or EVIEWS programs.
- Prerequisite: Econ 120C (may be taken concurrently).
- Course webpage: *http://webct.ucsd.edu*

Books and Materials
- Bowerman/O'Connell/Koehler, *Forecasting, Time Series and Regression* (4th ed.). [Required]
- Bernstein, *Against the Gods*, Wiley, 1998. History of probability and statistics.
- Taleb, *The Black Swan*, Random House, 2007. Everything you know is wrong.

Calendar
- Change grade option or drop w/o "W" thru F, 29 JAN; drop w/o "F" thru F, 5 MAR
- Holidays: Monday, 18 JAN (MLK); Monday, 15 FEB ((my birthday)
- Midterm Exam: Wednesday, 10 FEB, in class
- Final Exam: Friday, 19 MAR, 8-11 am, Ledden Auditorium

Examinations and Grading
Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 290; homework = 10 (adjusted). Exams open book and notes. Regrade 1 week after papers returned. Late penalty = 1/2 score.[1] No make-up exams.[2]

Course Outline and Reading List		
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS	Ch. 1-2
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS	Ch. 3, 6; §8.1, 8.3
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS	Ch. 4, 7; §6.3, 8.4
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY	Ch. 5; §8.2, 8.5, 8.6
Top 5	ARIMA I - III	Ch. 9-10
Top 6	SYSTEM SIMULATION	

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[1] Take early papers to SEQ 245. No paper accepted after answers are posted, and none via e-mail.
[2] Please note that you MUST take the final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week.