

Graham Elliott x44481
Fall Quarter 2001

UCSD
Department of Economics

ECONOMETRICS 120A

Course Description:

The course introduces students to the science of statistics, building student skills in the analysis of data and introducing the formal methods used by statisticians to learn about the real world from data. As a building block students will be introduced to basic probability theory. We will gain an understanding of the collection of data and the problems and opportunities this affords. Students will be expected by the end of the course to understand the foundations of modern statistical analysis in preparation for 120B which will concentrate on developing methods of statistical analysis.

TextBook

Wonnacott, T.H. and R.J. Wonnacott, (1990) Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics, Fourth Edition, John Wiley and Sons:New York.

Course Outline

The course outline gives a rough estimate of the classes that will cover the topics and the reading required from the text.

- Ch1 Introduction - Sept 20
- Ch2 Descriptive Statistics - Sept 25,27, Oct 2,4 (also Chapter 11, Sections 1,2).
- Ch3 Probability - Oct 9,11,16.
- Ch4 Probability Distributions - Oct 23,25,30.
- Ch5 Two Random Variables - Nov 1, 6.
- Ch6 Sampling - Nov 8,13.
- Data Generation - Nov 20 .
- Ch7 Point Estimation - Nov 27,29.

Statistical software: We will be using computers and real world data in problem sets and class. All of the statistics in this course can be done using the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program, which is available in the computer laboratory in Econ 100. Accounts are required to use this lab. You may use other econometric or statistical software. Data, Problem sets and solutions will also be available from the class webpage (at www.econ.ucsd.edu/~gelliott/Economics120A.htm)

Grading

There will be a number of assignments (probably 5), two midterm examinations (October 18 and November 15 in class) and a final exam during exam week. The assignments have a total weight of 20% of the final grade, the midterms are each worth 20% and the final is worth 40% of your grade. It is important to do problems in this course, understanding the problems is the best preparation for the exams. Assignments are due at 4pm on the day specified, in my mail box in Econ 210. If there is class that day they can be handed in a box at the back of the classroom. Do not interrupt class to hand in assignments. Do not come to my office to hand in assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted (the answer key is immediately posted on the web so I cannot accept late assignments).

Exam policies: You may bring a calculator to exams, although a simple one is enough. All grading problems (exams and problem sets) must be rectified within a week my returning the work. There will be no regrading of exams written in pencil. Makeup exams will only be given if absence is due to medical reasons (Doctors certificate required). In general, makeup exams will be at least as difficult as the regular exam, most likely harder.

Office Hours

My office hours are from 2.30-3.30 pm Tuesday and 1-2pm Wednesday. You will be advised as to the TA's office hours.