ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (Fall 2012)
Foster, UCSD, November 15, 2012

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	**Times**	**Room**	**Contact Info**
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 10-10^{45}	Price Center East	cfoster@ ucsd.edu
Deb Watkins	W, 11-12^{30} pm	SEQ 224	dawatkins@ ucsd.edu

Course Information
- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING   [n = 120]
- Lecture A00 (754912) – MWF, 9 - 10 am, CENTER 113
- Description: Intro to forecasting (including simultaneous-equation and Box-Jenkins methods) used for sales/marketing forecasts and macroeconomic policy simulation. Covers methods of forecast evaluation. Computer practice exercises use STATA program.
- Prerequisite: Ec 120C (may be taken concurrently)

Books, Webpage, and Materials
- No textbook assigned.
- An advanced treatment of time-series analysis can be found in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley (1995). Your Econ 120C text has sections on ARIMA and some other topics.
- Course webpage: *http://Ted.ucsd.edu*

Calendar
- Change grade option or drop w/o "W" thru F, 26 OCT; drop w/o "F" thru F, 30 NOV
- Holidays: Monday, 12 NOV (Veteran's Day); Thursday-Friday 22-23 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterm: Friday, 9 NOV (in class)
- Final: Wednesday, 12 DEC, 8 - 11 am, in CENTER 113 or REC GYM

Examinations and Grading
- Exams are open notes/calculator required. Bring stat tables if you need them.
- Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 300.   Course grades will be curved, in line with econ department norms.
- I provide ungraded computer assignments. They help, so I suggest that you do them.
- Regrade period for midterm is 1 week after papers first returned in class.
- No bathroom breaks during midterms. One person at a time during finals; you will be escorted by a TA, with whom you will leave your exam paper.
- 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 paper has been turned in, you will get a zero if you arrive late.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams. You MUST take the final with the rest of the class on sched-ule during finals week. (Make travel/wedding plans accordingly; if you are going to have too many finals on one day, drop one course.) If you miss the midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, your course grade will be your grade on the final. Notify me promptly that you will miss the midterm or you will get a zero. Unexcused absences also result in a zero.

COURSE OUTLINE		
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS	
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS	
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS	
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY	
Top 5-7	ARIMA I - III	
Top 8	TSAR/SIM/VAR	

Study Tips
- Attend class and take notes. Do the practice problems at the end of my lecture notes. At least attempt the computer exercises.
- Consult the folder of recent or old exam questions at Ted to get a feel for the format of my tests.

My Pet Peeves
- This is not an on-line class. If you don't plan to come to the lectures, please drop the course.
- My view of grades is that they certify attainment of a certain level of competence and expertise in a subject or technique. They are NOT a reward for effort, but rather for achievement. I am horribly offended when students beg me to raise a grade because they "need" a better mark. I do not honor such requests.
- I give multiple versions of tests several times each year. If you have the right answer for the wrong issue, I withhold your grade until the issue is resolved by AIC.
- A lot of cheating takes place during the last few minutes of an exam, when papers are handed in. In Spring 2010, 4 students handed in their midterms after I declared "pencils down," and 3 of them subsequently got caught cheating on the final. If you don't hand your exam in when I call "Time," I will reduce your score by half.
- In Fall 2011, a lot of cheating by students purportedly on "bathroom break" was reported. You may not leave the room during a midterm, and will be escorted by a TA during a final.