

## ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (Fall 2013)

Foster, UCSD, April 1, 2014

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 11-11 <sup>30</sup> am	Outside CENTER 113	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Qihui Chen (½)	M 4-5 pm	SEQ 234	qic005@ucsd.edu
Zhenting Sun (½)	T 12-1 pm	ECON 115	zhs004@ucsd.edu
Max Jiganti (u)	W 12-1 pm	SEQ 139	mjiganti@ucsd.edu

### Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING
- Lecture A00 (783235) – MWF, 10-11 am, CENTER 216 [n = 146]
- 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. The Ec 120C text (Stock & Watson, *Intro to Econometrics*) has sections on forecasting in several places.
- Advanced time-series analysis is in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley (1995).
- Course webpage: <http://Ted.ucsd.edu>

### Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru F, 25 OCT, ; drop w/o “F” thru M, 2 DEC
- Holidays: M, 11 NOV (Veterans’ Day); Th-F, 28-29 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterm: Friday, 25 OCT (in class)
- Final: Friday, 13 DEC, 8-11 am, place to be announced

Course Outline		S/W
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS	§14.1
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS	
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS	§7.1 - 7.2
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY	§6.4
Top 5-7	ARIMA I - III	Ch. 14
Top 8	TSAR/SIM/VAR	§16.1

### Study Tips

- Attend class and take notes. Do the practice problems at the end of my lecture notes. At least attempt the practice computer (STATA) exercises.
- Consult the folder of recent or old exam questions at Ted to get a feel for the format of my tests. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT DISCUSS THESE OLD EXAMS.

Examinations and Grading

- Exams are open notes/calculator required. Bring stat tables (at Ted) if you need them. **YOU MUST BRING A VALID PHOTO ID TO EVERY EXAM AND SHOW IT WHEN YOU TURN IN YOUR PAPER.**
- Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 300.
- No bathroom breaks during midterms. One person at a time during finals; you leave your paper with a TA before leaving the room.
- 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.
- I provide ungraded computer STATA assignments. They help, so I suggest that you do them.
- Regrade period for midterm is 1 week after papers first returned in class.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams. You **MUST** take the final with the rest of the class on schedule 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.

Grade Scale	
A	86-99%
B	73-85%
C	52-72%
D	41-51%
F	0-40%
n = 1083	

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 long 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 and Spring 2013, a lot of cell-phone cheating by students purportedly on "bathroom break" was reported. A few cases of students not even enrolled at UCSD taking the exams for someone else have also recently surfaced. Hence, my exam rules and restrictions (noted earlier).