

ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (Fall 2015)
Foster, UCSD, October 23, 2015

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 9-10 am	Near CENTER HALL coffee cart	cfoster@ mail.ucsd.edu
Xu Zhang	T, 11-12 n	SEQ 233	xuz039@ ucsd.edu
Chen Liu	Th, 3 ³⁰ -4 ³⁰ pm	SEQ 232	chl110@ ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING
- Lecture: A00 (845821) -- MWF, 10-11 am -- CENTER 119 [n = 196]
- 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

- Diebold, *Elements of Forecasting* (4th ed.), Thomson South-Western [bookstore]
- The Stock & Watson Ec 120C text has sections on forecasting in several places.
- Advanced time-series analysis is in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley (1995).
- Notes, problems, and stat tables at course website: ted.ucsd.edu

Calendar

- Holidays: Wednesday, 11 NOV (Veterans); Thursday-Friday, 26-27 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Midterm: Wednesday, 28 OCT, in class
- Final: Friday, 11 DEC, 8-11 am, in ____

Course Outline		Diebold	Stock/Watson
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS	Ch. 1-4	§14.1
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS	Ch. 5	
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS	Ch. 6	§7.1 - 7.2
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY	Ch. 12	§6.4
Top 5-7	ARIMA I - III	Ch. 7-10, 13	Ch. 14
Top 8	TSAR/SIM/VAR		§16.1

Examinations and Grading

- Midterm = 50 points; cumulative final = 100; no homework.
- Exams are open book and notes; calculator required (no laptops or phones).
- 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.
- 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.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams. You MUST take final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week. Plan your schedule accordingly. I have to give 4 midterms and 3 finals in three classes and will have no flexibility whatsoever.

About Cheating

1. There is a LOT of it! Honest students are put at a disadvantage by cheaters, and I hate that.
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 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.