

ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (Fall 2017)
Foster, UCSD, October 17, 2017

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 11 - 11 ³⁰ am ¹	CENTER HALL	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Yibin Daniel Liu Won-ki Seo	M, 10-11 am T, 2-3 pm	SEQ 232 ECON 120	yil490@ucsd.edu w3seo@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING [n = 196]
- Lecture: A00 (914068) -- MWF, 8-8⁵⁰ am -- CENTER HALL 119
- 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 homework exercises use STATA program.
- Prerequisite: Ec 120C (may be taken concurrently).

Books, Webpage, and Materials

- No book is required.
 - Some students use Diebold, *Elements of Forecasting* (4th ed.), Thomson South-Western.
 - The Stock & Watson Ec 120C text has sections on forecasting in several places.
 - Advanced forecasting is in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley (1995).
- Lecture notes, problems, and stat tables at course website: TRITONED.UCSD.EDU

Calendar

- Holidays: Friday, 10 NOV (Veterans Day); Thursday-Friday, 23-24 NOV (Thanksgiving)
- Homework Due: Fridays, 13 OCT, 27 OCT, 1 DEC. Bring to ME in CLASS!
- Midterm: Friday, 3 NOV, in class
- Final: Monday, 11 DEC, 8-11 am, in CENTER 119

Course Outline Reading List		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

¹ I will be down fairly close to the coffee cart, possibly on a bench on the back lawn if it is sunny. I can stay longer than 11³⁰ if students are present.

Examinations and Grading

- Midterm = 40 points; final = 80; three graded STATA homeworks = 5 points total (adjusted).
- Exams are open notes. You may use my TRITONED lecture notes (on paper), and you may write on them; you may NOT consult or rely upon old exams or Econ Tutor materials during the exam. You need a working calculator (any kind), and your probability tables from TRITONED.
- 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.
- If you miss the midterm for a **verifiable** sports/legal/medical reason, I will excuse you and base your grade on the final exam and homework.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams, and no incompletes. You MUST take final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week. Plan your schedule accordingly.
- The course is ultimately graded on a curve based on one recommended by the econ department. I don't know exactly what the curve will look like until after the finals are graded.

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 give you the negative of the question value. In extreme cases, 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.