

# ECON 120A

Probability and Statistics  
Center 214 Summer 2011

**Instructor:** Dr. Tia Hilmer

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**Office Hours:** after class or by appointment

**Teaching Assistants:** Ling Jun Li email: [ljli@ucsd.edu](mailto:ljli@ucsd.edu)

**Class Web Page:** Web CT

**Lab:** Fridays, 10am – 11:50am, PCYNH 122 – Ling Jun will be there to answer your questions.

**Text:** Thomas H. Wonnacott and Ronald J. Wannacott (1990): *Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics*, John Wiley & Sons.

**Course Objectives:** This course is to serve as an introduction to statistics and provide the tools necessary to conduct econometric analysis. These tools include summary statistics, probability theory, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing.

## Course Grading

Grades will be based on the following allocation:

|       |     |           |     |           |     |
|-------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Paper | 10% | Midterm 1 | 40% | Midterm 2 | 50% |
|-------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|

Midterm 1 will be on Monday, July 11 in class and Midterm 2 will be one Wednesday, July 27. The paper is due Friday, July 29 by noon. These dates are not negotiable.

## Problem Sets

There will be approximately four problem sets throughout the semester. They are designed to supplement the material presented in class and to provide you with some practical experience in the subject area. Assignments will not be due but the exams will draw heavily from these assignments.

## Exams

No makeup exams will be given. Once you start taking an exam, the test counts. Under no circumstances can you have your test results not count once you start taking it. You do not need blue books. Exams are electronics free except for the use of a BASIC calculator. No cell phones, no ipods, no headphones, etc.

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 his/her exam and left the room. Once a classmate has turned in his/her exam, you will earn a zero on the test if you arrive late.

The marking scheme on this syllabus is final. Under university regulations, the posted marking scheme applies to all students without exceptions. There is no dropping an exam or extra credit of any kind. Please make sure you are well prepared for both exams. Grades are determined on a curve.

All exams will be closed book, but you can bring ONE page (one-sided, no larger than 8.5in by 11in) of notes to the midterm 1 and TWO pages to midterm 2. It must be hand-written; photo reducing and pasting is not permitted. Please also bring a calculator to each exam.

**Attendance and Classroom Behavior**

There is no attendance requirement. However, you are responsible for all information presented during class and I strongly encourage you to attend class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate and get their lecture notes. Please be on time to class and do not leave early. Do not talk during class and turn off your cell phones before class begins.

**Course Outline**

- I. Introduction (Chapter 1)
- II. Basic Data Analysis (Chapter 2)
- III. Probability Concepts (Chapter 3)
- IV. Random Variables (Chapters 4 and 5)
- V. Estimation (Chapter 7)
- VI. Sampling Distributions (Chapter 6)
- VII. Confidence Intervals (Chapter 8)
- VIII. Hypothesis Testing (Chapter 9)