Econometrics - ECON120A

Course Description and Syllabus

for Spring 2003

In the table below, an underlined item has links to the Web pages for that category. If you have access to a Web browser (Netscape or Internet Explorer, for example) from home, it is wise to create bookmarks for this site as well as the other link pages. There are links to old homeworks and exams the last time I taught this course several years ago. For details click here and choose the bullentins option.

CLASS MEETINGS	MWF 10-10:50pm, Peterson Hall 108 Class Web page --- http://econ.ucsd.edu/~rramanat/ec120a/spring03.
OFFICE AND HOURS	My office is Room 109, ECON building, Marshall College (Phone 534-8904). My office hours will be 9-9:50am and 1 to 2pm on MWF (I have a class from 12-1). I AM NOT AVAILABLE ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS. Variations from the above will be posted on the computer bulletin. The TAs' office hours will be posted on their doors and on the computer bulletin.
TEXTS	DATA ANALYSIS WITH MICROSOFT EXCEL by Kenneth N. Berk and Patrick Carey, Second Edition, 2003. *The second edition will not be available before April 17, 2003*. PROFESSOR RAMANATHAN'S HANDOUT #1, from Soft Reserves. PROFESSOR RAMANATHAN'S HANDOUT #2, from Soft Reserves.
COURSE CONTENT	This course primarily deals with the theories of probability and mathematical statistics needed for the remaining two courses in this sequence. Numerical applications will use the Microsoft Excel program and will be predominantly through Econ 100 computer lab sessions. During the first week of class it is extremely important that you get your computer account for the class, login, and familiarize yourself with the computers in Econ 100 lab. Be sure to attend the weekly lab sessions regularly. That is where you will really learn the computer operations. I will spend very little class time on the mechanics of computer commands. You are expected to learn them on your own, with the help of the TAs. Also, we will be using simple integrations. So brush up on integrals from your Calculus course. Because the book by Berk and Carey will not be available till the end of April, we will start with the two handouts listed above.

ASSIGNMENTS	There will be two assignments, each of which will carry a weight of 10% towards the final grade. The assignments will involve both theoretical and empirical work. Joint work and free discussion are strongly encouraged. If you work as a team (no more than three people per team), submit a single set of answers and identify the team members. Each member will get the same grade assigned to the answers. If your name does not appear on any assignment turned in, you cannot add it later. If your name appears on two papers, the LOWER grade will be chosen. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
EXAMS	There will be two mid-term exams, one on April 30, Wednesday of the fifth week (20% weight), and the second on May 21, Wednesday of the eighth week (30% weight). The final exam will have a 30% weight. The exams will be closed book, but you can bring a SINGLE 4" by 6" index card on which you may copy down (on both sides) formulas, etc. It must be HAND-WRITTEN; photo reducing and pasting is not permitted. Bring a calculator (just a simple one will do, no need for scientific or business calculator). If you bring a solar calculator, be sure to sit directly under a light. *All grading problems must be rectified within a week from the time an exam or assignment is returned. No regrading of exams will be allowed if they were written in pencil. If you write in pencil, however, you can pick up the exam from the T.A. in his/her office, check the grading immediately, and take care of complaints before leaving the office.*;
MAKE-UP EXAMS	I will generally not give incompletes or make-up exams, especially if you have exam conflicts on finals. If for some reason a make-up exam is given, 10% of the score will be deducted as penalty. There is no penalty for medical absence, but a doctor's certificate is required. I ought to warn you that my make-up exams are usually much harder.
COURSE GRADE	The course grade will be assigned as follows. First, a weighted average of numerical scores will be obtained. If the mean class score is below 67.5 percent (C+ average), points will be added to all scores to bring the mean score to 67.5 percent. Then letter grades will be assigned using the following percentage scale. | 97-100 A+	81-85.9 B+	66-70.9 C+	41-50.9 D
91-96.9 A	76-80.9 B	61-65.9 C	< 41 F
86-90.9 A-	71-75.9 B-	51-60.9 C-		
BULLETINS	We will be using email and bulletin board systems extensively for communication purposes. If there is an important message to be read, I will alert you in class. You should then sign up after class and see if you have mail or bulletins. FAILING TO DO THAT MAY BE DISASTROUS BECAUSE YOU WILL MISS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS. My email address is **ramu@econ.ucsd.edu or rramanathan@ucsd.edu**.