University of California, San Diego
Department of Economics

Economics 120A – Econometrics
Spring 2009
MWF 11:00 – 11:50 am, Pepper Canyon Hall 109

Instructor
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Teaching Assistants
Wei, Xiahua (Anny) xiwei@ucsd.edu
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Discussion Sections
Monday 7:00 – 7:50 pm, Pepper Canyon Hall 106
Monday 8:00 – 8:50 pm, York Hall 2622

Econ 120A - Econometrics A

Course Description
As the first of the econometrics sequence, this course introduces the science of statistics. It is designed to provide the building blocks necessary to construct rigorous econometric analysis. These building blocks include basic statistics, probability rules, and the formal methods used by statistician to learn about the real world from the data.

Course Materials
Required Textbook: "Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics" by T.H. Wonnacott and R.J. Wonnacott, Fourth Edition, John Wiley and Sons: New York.
There is a custom version of the book, made specially to UCSD students. This book is exactly the same as the non-custom version, only less expensive.
Chapters on Textbook: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.
Required Software: The software for this course is Microsoft Excel spreadsheet program, which is available in the computer laboratory in the Economics Building #100, and in other computer labs on campus.

Course Web Page
A course webpage is available at http://webct.ucsd.edu.
It will include information relevant to the course, such as announcements, homework assignments, information on Excel tutorials, practice problem sets, solutions, syllabus, schedule and more. You should check this page regularly.

Lectures and Discussion Sections
It is important to come to every lecture. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and any information provided in class. There are weekly discussion sections for this course. They are not mandatory. However, you are **strongly recommended** to attend them since the TAs will go over practice problems, the kind of problems you may encounter on exams. You will also be able to ask the TA any question about the material covered in the lectures during these discussion sections. The first discussion section will take place April 6th.

Excel Tutorial Sections
We will provide some excel tutorial sections in the 3rd week of the quarter so that you can become familiar with the software. Check the course webpage for specific dates and locations for these tutorials. The sections will take place in a computer lab and they will be practical applications of the software. You will be able to follow and repeat the Excel commands using a computer in the lab. These sections are not mandatory but are strongly recommended as you need to know Excel to complete your homework assignments.

Homework

There will be two or three homework assignments in this course. You will be required to use Excel to complete them. They will be graded on effort, not on the correctness of answers. If you honestly attempt all the questions in the homework, you will get 100%. Complete all your homework assignments on your own. Remember, homework is assigned to assist you in learning the software and at the same time it is a good check of your understanding of the statistical concepts taught in class.

Grading

Your grade will be based on:
Homework Assignments
Midterm Exams
Final Exam

The midterm exams are scheduled to **Friday, April 24th,** and **Monday, May 18th,** at lecture time. The final exam will take place on **Friday, June 12th** from 11:30 pm to 2:30 pm and will be cumulative. The questions asked on exams will be based on lectures, textbook reading and assigned or practice problems.
We will calculate for each student one point total that puts a weight of 10% on homework assignments, 25% on first midterm exam, 25% on second midterm exam, and 40% on final. We will then calculate a second point total that puts a weight of 10% on homework assignments, 25% on the best of the two midterm exams and 65% on the final. Student's grade will be based on the higher of the two numbers.
There are no make-up exams - a missed midterm exam automatically commits a student to the second option. An average of the scores on the homework assignments will be computed and that will be your homework score, worth 10% of your course grade.
The overall course grade, computed as specified above, will be curved. In general, the class average corresponds to the lowest B-.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will be treated in this course as a serious violation of university rules. As stated in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: "*Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind.*" You can find information on the university's policy on academic integrity at this website: http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/academics/academic-integrity/index.html.

Tentative Schedule (exams dates will not change)

Days	Topic	Textbook Chapter
Apr 1st Apr 3rd	Introduction to Statistics Descriptive Statistics	1 2
Apr 6th – Apr 8th Apr 10th	Descriptive Statistics Basic Probability	2 3
Apr 13th – Apr 17th	Basic Probability	3
Apr 20th Apr 22nd **Fri Apr 24th**	Basic Probability Probability Distributions **First Midterm Examination**	3 4 **1-3**
Apr 27th – Apr 29th May 1st	Probability Distributions Two Random Variables	4 5
May 4th – May 6th May 6th – May 8th	Two Random Variables Sampling, Central Limit Theorem	5 6
May 11th May 13th – May 15th	Sampling, Central Limit Theorem Point Estimation; Law of Large Numbers	6 7
Mon May 18th May 20th May 22nd	**Second Midterm Examination** Point Estimation, Law of Large Numbers Confidence Intervals	**4-6, part of 7** 7 8
May 27th – May 29th	Confidence Intervals	8
Jun 1st – Jun 5th	Hypothesis Testing	9
Fri Jun 12th **11:30 am - 2:30 pm**	**Final Exam**	**1-9**