

ECON 120A -- SYLLABUS (SPRING 2012)

Foster, UCSD, April 12, 2012

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 10 - 10 ³⁰ am	Outside WLH 2005	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Deb Watkins	T, 2-4 pm	SEQ 224	dawatkins@ucsd.edu
Zheng Fang	M, 2-4 pm	SEQ 234	zfang@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMETRICS A [n ≈ 180]
- Lecture Boo (743381) – MWF, 9-10 am, WLH 2005
- Problem/discussion section
 - B01 – T, 8-9 pm SOLÍS 107
 - B02 – T, 9-10 pm SOLÍS 107 [to be canceled after second week]
- Description: Statistics for economists. Probability and sampling theory, statistical inference (estimation and hypothesis testing), and use of EXCEL spreadsheets.
- Prerequisites: Ec 1; Math 10C/20C. No credit for both Ec 120A and ECE 109 or Math 180A/183/186.

Books, Webpage, and Materials

- Wonnacott × 2, *Intro. Statistics for Bus. and Econ.*, 4th ed. [Bookstore]
- *Workbook for ...* [Bookstore, optional]
- Bernstein, *Against the Gods*, Wiley, 1998. History of probability. [If you are interested]
- Course webpage: <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

COURSE OUTLINE & READING LIST					
Top 1	PRELIMINARIES ¹	Ch. 1	Top 5	USEFUL DISTRIBUTIONS	§4-3, 4-5
Top 2	DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS	Ch. 2	Top 6	SAMPLING DISTRIBUTIONS	Ch. 6
Top 3	PROBABILITY	Ch. 3	Top 7	ESTIMATION	Ch. 7 - 8
Top 4	RANDOM VARIABLES	Ch. 4 - 5	Top 8	HYPOTHESIS TESTING	Ch. 9 - 10

Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru F, 27 APR; drop w/o “F” thru F, 1 JUN
- Holidays: Monday, 28 MAY (Memorial Day)
- Midterm: Friday, 4 MAY, in class
- Final: Wednesday, 13 JUN, 8-11 am, place to be announced

Examinations and Grading

- Exams are open book/notes; calculator required. Bring stat tables if you need them.
- Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 290; graded homework = 10 (adjusted). Course grades will be curved, but not individual exam scores.
- Late homework penalty = 1/2 score. Bring early homework to me in class. No papers accepted after answers are posted, and none via e-mail.
- Regrade period for midterm and homeworks is 1 week after papers first returned in class.

¹ Much of this will be introduced in the first two discussion sections.

- 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 paper has been turned in, you will get a zero if you arrive late.
- No rescheduled or make-up exams. You **MUST** take the final with the rest of the class on schedule during finals week. (Make travel/wedding plans accordingly, and if you are going to have too many finals on one day, drop one of the courses.) If you miss the midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final. You must notify me promptly that you will miss the midterm or I will give you a zero. Unexcused absences also result in a zero.

Discussion Schedule			
Wk	Subject	Wk	Subject
1	Summation, sets	6	Practice probs
2	Counting rules	7	Practice probs
3	Practice probs	8	Practice Probs
4	Midterm review	9	Practice Probs
5	Exam answers	10	Final review

Study Tips

- Attend class and take notes. Do the practice problems at the end of my lecture notes. Answers are provided. If you can't do a problem, we will show you how during office hours.
- Consult the folder of old exam questions at WebCT. Even though I will not discuss these old exams (for a variety of reasons), they are still helpful in cluing you in on things you might not understand as well as you thought. Don't panic if you can't do every question, because the course has changed over the years. Some questions are not relevant for this course this term.
- There are usually a lot of problems at the ends of chapters of textbooks and in Study Guides or Workbooks. Answers are often provided for even-numbered or odd-numbered problems.
- READ THE BOOK! It was written by teachers who wants to help you learn this subject.
- If you start to get lost, see me or a TA. We can help! But don't wait until the final is 2 days away.

My Pet Peeves

- The UC may experiment with offering on-line courses, BUT THIS IS NOT ONE OF THEM. If you don't plan on coming to the lectures, please drop the course.
- My view of grades is that they certify attainment of a certain level of competence and expertise in a subject or technique. They are NOT a reward for effort, but rather for achievement. I am horribly offended when students beg me to raise a grade because they "need" a better mark. I do not honor such requests. Would you like to go under the anesthetic in the operating room knowing that your surgeon got thru medical school by begging for passing grades?
- I give multiple versions of tests several times each year. What would you do with a student who had the right answers for the OTHER version of the test? (I report them to AIC.)
- A lot of cheating takes place during the last few minutes of an exam, when papers are handed in. In Spring 2010, 4 students handed in their midterms after I declared "pencils down," and 3 of them subsequently got caught cheating on the final. So I know what I am talking about. If you don't hand your exam in when I call "Time," I will reduce your score by half.
- In Fall 2011, a lot of cheating by students purportedly on "bathroom break" was reported. You may not leave the room during a midterm, and will be escorted by a TA during a final.