

ECON 178 – 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 7 ³⁰ - 8 am	WLH 2005	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Fan (Dora) Xia Qihui Chen	Th, 1 - 3 pm F, 2 ³⁰ - 4 ³⁰ pm	SEQ 227 SEQ 234	faxia@ucsd.edu qic005@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING [120]
- Lecture A00 (743412) – MWF, 8-9 am, WLH 2005
- 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 practice exercises use STATA program.
- Prerequisite: Ec 120C (may be taken concurrently)

Books, Webpage, and Materials

- Gonzales-Rivera, *Forecasting for Econ and Business*, Pearson (2013) [Optional]
- An advanced treatment of time-series analysis can be found in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley (1995). Your Econ 120C text has sections on ARIMA and some other topics.
- Course webpage: <http://Ted.ucsd.edu>

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: Friday, 15 JUN, 8-11 am, place to be announced

Examinations and Grading

- Exams are open notes/closed book/calculator required. Bring stat tables if you need them.
- Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 300. Course grades will be curved, but not individual exam scores.
- I provide ungraded computer assignments. They help, so I suggest that you do them.
- Regrade period for midterm is 1 week after papers first returned in class.
- 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; if you are going to have too many finals on one day, drop one course.) If you miss the midterm for a verifiable medical, legal or sports reason, your course grade will be your grade on the final. Notify me promptly that you will miss the midterm or you will get a zero. Unexcused absences also result in a zero.

COURSE OUTLINE/READING LIST		Gonzales-Rivera
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS	Ch. 1-4
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS	Ch. 10
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS	§7.3
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY	Ch. 8-9
Top 5-7	ARIMA I - III	Ch. 5-7
Top 8	TSAR/SIM/VAR	Ch. 11

Study Tips

- Attend class and take notes. Do the practice problems at the end of my lecture notes.
- Consult the folder of old exam questions at Ted to get a feel for the format of my tests.

My Pet Peeves

- This is not an on-line class. If you don't plan to come 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.