

ECON 120A -- SYLLABUS (SPRING 2013)

Foster, UCSD, April 18, 2013

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 9 - 9 ⁵⁰ am	Price Center East	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Richard Brady (½)	M, 2-3 pm	ECON 124	rlbrady@ucsd.edu
Jon-Myun Moon (½)	T, 5 ³⁰ -6 ³⁰ pm	ECON 119	j6moon@ucsd.edu
Alisha Forgerson (u)			aforgers@ucsd.edu

Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMETRICS A [n = 120]
- Lecture B00 (773396) – MWF, 8-9 am, SOLIS 107
- Problem/discussion section
B01 -- T, 8-9 pm CENTER 105 B02 -- T, 9-10 pm CENTER 105
- 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 or 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, 26 APR; drop w/o "F" thru F, 31 MAY
- Holidays: Monday, 27 MAY (Memorial Day)
- Midterm: Wednesday, 8 MAY (in class)
- Final: Friday, 14 JUN, 8-11 am, place to be announced

Examinations and Grading

- Exams are open book/notes; calculator required. Bring stat tables (at Ted) if you need them.
- Midterm = 100 points; cumulative final = 290; graded homework = 10 (adjusted). The grade curve is shown on the next page.
- No bathroom breaks during midterms. One person at a time during finals; you leave your paper with a TA before leaving the room.
- Late homework penalty = 1/2 score. No papers accepted after answers posted, nor 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	Midterm review
2	Counting rules	7	Midterm answers
3	Practice probs	8	Practice probs
4	Practice probs	9	Practice probs
5	Practice probs	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 recent or old exam questions at Ted to get a feel for the format of my tests. PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT DISCUSS THESE OLD EXAMS.
- 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 want to help you learn this subject.
- If you start to get lost, see a TA or me. We can help! But don't wait until the final is 2 days away.

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.
- I give multiple versions of tests several times each year. If you have the right answer for the wrong issue, I withhold your grade until the issue is resolved by 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. 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. Hence, my restrictions (noted earlier).

Grading	
A	86-99%
B	75-85%
C	54-74%
D	47-53%
F	0-46%