

UC San Diego
Winter 2005
Class: T-Th 9:30-10:50 (Peter 110)

Professor Eli Berman
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OH: T-Th, 10:50-11:45, EC 218

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**Economics 120B
Econometrics**

The course aims to prepare students for practical empirical research in an academic or business setting. It introduces three BIG ideas in econometrics: quantifying uncertainty using confidence intervals, using regression to infer causal relationships, and using regression for prediction. The course covers exotic concepts with strange names that you can impress your friends with, such as heteroskedasticity and instrumental variables. It provides the standard tools necessary to perform and to read empirical research.

The prerequisite is one of EC 120A, Math 183 or ECE109. Students without the prerequisite are welcome to attend the first few classes but must get permission to register.

The material is fairly well covered in *Introduction to Econometrics*, by Jim Stock and Mark Watson, which is *required* reading and is available at the bookstore. Another helpful text is *Introductory Econometrics*, by Arthur Goldberger.

Part of the course involves learning to use a software package called *Stata*. Students have access to *Stata* in the computer lab. Individual copies of *Small Stata* can be purchased at <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplan.html>. (A one year lease is available). *Stata* is essential for solving problem sets.

Evaluation: There will be a midterm exam (worth about 35% of the grade) on Thursday February 3, a final (about 45%) during exam week, and three or four problem sets (worth 20% together). No other exams are planned. Exams may be proctored using video. Problem sets are a good way to prepare for exams.

Written work: The "Buckley" waiver makes it much easier to return your written work, by allowing us to put it in a public place rather than having you meet with the TA. Please read the attached waiver. If you feel comfortable with it then sign and return it to a TA.

Disabilities will be accommodated. Please refer to OSD policy on what we do to help. <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app3.htm> . If you have any questions please feel welcome to bring them up in office hours.