

## ECON 178 -- SYLLABUS (WINTER 2011)

Foster, UCSD, January 13, 2011

Teaching Staff and Consultation Hours			
Name/Position	Times	Room	Contact Info
Carroll B. Foster (PhD/Lecturer)	MWF 11 - 11 <sup>50</sup> am	ECON 110C	cfoster@ucsd.edu
Deborah Watkins (1/2) Ayelen Banegas (3/8)	W, 1 <sup>30</sup> - 3 <sup>30</sup> pm F, 3-4 pm	SEQ 224 SEQ 224	dawatkins@ucsd.edu mbanegas@ucsd.edu

### Course Information

- Course Title: ECONOMIC & BUSINESS FORECASTING [n = 150]
- Lecture A00 (699836) – MWF, 12-1 pm, SOLÍS 104
- 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. Homework assignments use STATA or EViews programs.
- Prerequisite: Ec 120C

### Books, Webpage, and Materials

- There is no textbook for this class.
- An advanced treatment of time-series analysis can be found in W. Enders, *Applied Econometric Time Series*, Wiley, 1995. The Econ 120C text has sections on ARIMA and some other topics.
- Course webpage: <http://webct.ucsd.edu>

### Calendar

- Change grade option or drop w/o “W” thru F, 28 JAN; drop w/o “F” thru F, 4 MAR
- Holidays: Monday, 17 JAN (MLK); Monday 21 FEB (Presidents’ Day)
- Midterm: Friday, 11 FEB, in class
- Final: Wednesday, 16 MAR, 11<sup>30</sup>-2<sup>30</sup> pm, in SOLÍS 104 or \_\_\_\_\_

### 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.
- No bathroom breaks during 1-hour midterms. 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.

COURSE OUTLINE/READING LIST	
Top 1	BASIC CONCEPTS
Top 2	SMOOTHING & TRENDS
Top 3	SEASONAL MODELS
Top 4	FORECAST ACCURACY
Top 5-7	ARIMA I - III
Top 8	TSAR/SIM/VAR

### 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 good reasons), they are still helpful in revealing 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.
- 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?
- 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.