

Economics 120C – Econometrics
Winter 2013
MWF 10:00 – 10:50 pm, Center Hall 109

Instructor

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Teaching Assistants

Sieuwerd Gaastra sgaastra@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm (Economics 125)

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Office Hours: Fridays, 11:00 – 12:30 pm (Economics 116)

Discussion Sections

Tuesday 8:00 – 8:50 pm, Cognitive Science Building 001
Tuesday 9:00 – 9:50 pm, Cognitive Science Building 001

Econ 120C - Econometrics C

Course Description

The objective of Econ 120C is to provide you with knowledge of econometrics in theory and applications. By the end of the course, students should be skilled users of basic econometric methods. Students should be able to interpret empirical studies in ways that are interesting, enlightening, and useful. They should also be aware of potential problems with regression analysis and know how to make corrections if these problems are present.

Course Materials

Required Textbook: “Introduction to Econometrics” by James H. Stock and Mark W. Watson, 2nd edition (UCSD Custom), Pearson/Addison-Wesley. Chapters to be covered: 10, 11, 12, 13, and part of 14 and 15.

Required Software: The software for this course is STATA (www.stata.com). Students are not required to buy the software. Students can use STATA in the computer lab in Economics Building #100, and in other computer labs on campus, such as ERC 117. Do not use other software packages to complete course assignments. Students can also access STATA via the Virtual Lab. See <http://acms.ucsd.edu/students/VirtualLabsMain.html> for more information. Individual copies of Intercooled STATA (i.e., STATA /IC) can be leased for six months for \$65 from <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-direct.html>. Small STATA is not adequate due to its inability to handle large datasets.

Optional Text on Using STATA: “Statistics with STATA (updated for Version 10)” by Lawrence Hamilton (2009), Cengage. Websites for help on using STATA will be provided on our web page on TED.

Course Web Page

A course webpage is available at <http://ted.ucsd.edu>.

It will include information relevant to the course, such as announcements, homework assignments, practice problem sets, solutions, syllabus, schedule and more. You should check this page regularly.

Lectures and Discussion Sections

It is important to come to every lecture. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes and any information provided in class. There are two weekly discussion sections for this course. You may attend either section as suits your schedule. The discussion sections are not mandatory. However, you are **strongly recommended** to attend them since the TAs will go over practice problems, the kind of problems you may encounter on exams. You will also be able to ask the TA any question about the material covered in the lectures during these discussion sections. The first discussion section will take place Jan 15th only.

Homework

There will be three homework assignments in this course. You will be required to use STATA to complete them. They will be graded on effort, not on the correctness of answers. If you honestly attempt all the questions in the homework, you will get 100%. Complete all your homework assignments ON YOUR OWN. Remember, homework is assigned to assist you in learning the software and at the same time it is a good check of your understanding of the statistical and econometrical concepts taught in class.

Grading

15% Homework Assignments
30% Midterm Exam
55% Final Exam

The midterm examination is scheduled to **Wednesday, February 13th**, at lecture time. The final exam will take place on **Friday, March 22nd** from 8:00 am to 11:00 am and will be cumulative. The dates for the exams are not negotiable. There are no make up exams. If you miss a midterm for a justifiable and verifiable medical/legal reason, your midterm grade will be your grade on the final. Otherwise you will receive a zero, no exceptions!!

The overall course grade, computed using the weights specified above, will be curved. In general, the class average corresponds to the lowest B-.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty will be treated in this course as a serious violation of university rules. As stated in the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship: *"Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind."* You can find information on the university's policy on academic integrity at this website: <http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/academics/academic-integrity/index.html>.

Tentative Schedule (exams dates will not change)

Days	Topic	Textbook Chapter
Jan 9 th - Jan 11 th	Discrete Choice Models	11
Jan 14 th - Jan 18 th	Discrete Choice Models	11
Jan 23 rd - Jan 25 th	Instrumental Variables Regression	12
Jan 28 th - Feb 1 st	Instrumental Variables Regression	12
Feb 4 th - Feb 8 th	Regression with Panel Data	10
Feb 11 th Wed Feb 13th Feb 15 th	Regression with Panel Data Midterm Examination Regression with Panel Data	10 11, 12 and part of 10 10
Feb 20 th - Feb 22 nd	Experiments and Quasi-Experiments	13
Feb 25 th - Mar 1 st	Experiments and Quasi-Experiments	13
Mar 4 th - Mar 8 th	Time Series Regression	14-15
Mar 11 th - Mar 15 th	Time Series Regression	14-15
Fri Mar 22nd 8:00 - 11:00 am	Final Examination	All material covered during quarter