Economics 444: Elementary Econometrics

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Classes: Mondays and Wednesdays, 10:30am - 12:18 pm, in RA 0110 (Ramsey Hall).

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:15pm - 3:00pm.


Economics 444 is a course in econometrics. The course covers linear regression and related topics. We will discuss economic applications and we will analyze real economic data. One central goal for this course is that you will be able to correctly interpret the output of a statistical package such as Eviews. However, an understanding of the statistical procedures that form the basis of such output is essential. The fundamental point of this course is the understanding of the statistical procedures and the ability to correctly interpret these procedures, rather than learning what buttons to push on the computer to make results appear. However, being able to use a statistical package is part of the skills that this course hopes to enrich you with.

The textbook for this course is “Using Econometrics: a practical guide”, by A.H. Studenmund. You can use the fourth or fifth edition. We will also be using Eviews software. You can use this software in the computer lab of the Economics department.

The final exam for this course is on Thursday December 7, 7:30am - 9:18am, 2006, in our regular classroom. The midterm for this course is on Monday October 23.

There will be one midterm exam for this course, a computer exercise, five small take-home assignments, and a term paper (yes, I will keep you busy). There will be five occasions for the takehome assignments, and they will be graded on a pass/fail basis; they need to be handed in a week after I hand them out; each takehome assignment will count for five points, and the maximum number of points to be earned with these assignments is 20 (i.e. you can miss one).

Prerequisites: ten credit hours in mathematics above the level of 104. Elementary statistics (STAT 133, 135, or 145) or equivalent. Neither Calculus nor Linear Algebra is required for Econ 444.
The computer exercise will take place in a microlab on the OSU campus (the location will be announced in class later). The purpose of this test is to ensure that you all have some familiarity with the Eviews software, which you will need in order to be able to do the takehome exercises and the term paper. For the term paper, you are required to write a small paper on one of several suggested topics, and you will be provided with a dataset. The due date for this paper is Monday November 27; this deadline is strict.

The final will count for 35 points of your grade, the midterm will count for 25 points, the computer exercise will count for 5 points, the term paper will count for 15 points, and the five take-home assignments will count for 5 points each with a total maximum of 20 points to be earned for the takehome assignments (making a possible total of 100). Not showing up for a midterm, final, or the computer exercise, not handing in your term paper on time, or not handing in your take home assignment will imply that you automatically get 0 points, unless you have a valid medical excuse as well as written proof of it.

The course schedule is as follows.

1. Introduction, approximately 3 classes
2. Chapter 2 and 3, Ordinary least squares and its use, approximately 2 classes
3. Chapter 4, The model assumptions, approximately 3 classes
4. Chapter 5, Hypothesis testing, approximately 4 classes
5. Chapters 6, 7 and 8, Specification issues, approximately 3 classes
6. Chapters 9 and 10, Serial correlation and heteroskedasticity, approximately 3 classes
7. Time permitting: Chapter 12, Time series and Chapter 13, Dummy dependent variables
Legals disclaimers and other information

1. Tutoring services statement

The Economics Department provides free tutoring services to students enrolled in ECON 200 and 201. The Economics Learning Center (ELC) is located in Arps 341, and is open Monday-Friday from 9:30-5:00. Other courses may be tutored when tutors have adequate experience and are available.

2. Disability statement

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

3. Academic misconduct statement

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT)

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University’s Code of Student Conduct, and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University’s Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute “Academic Misconduct.”

The Ohio State University’s Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: “Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process.” Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University’s Code of Student Conduct is never considered an “excuse” for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.
If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- The Committee on Academic Misconduct web pages (oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html)
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity (oaa.osu.edu/coam/ten-suggestions.html)
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity (www.northwestern.edu/uacc/8cards.html)