Course Content

This course provides a general introduction to the practice of econometric analysis. While motivated by intuition and applications, the presentation of estimators and tests will be primarily mathematical in nature. We will focus largely on multiple regression techniques in cross-sectional data analysis (as well as time series analysis), considering common issues and problems that arise in applied empirical social science research. Students will learn R—a freely available and widely used statistical programming language—to analyse and plot data, draw inference, and compare alternative modelling approaches. The course closely follows the textbook "Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach" by J. Wooldridge.

Learning Outcomes

In this course you will gain an understanding of econometric methods and their applications. You will learn the basics of econometric theory that underpins econometric analysis, how to analyse data, and how to interpret existing analyses of data. The course leads to highly transferrable modelling and programming skills through lab-based instruction using the statistical programming language R (widely used in academic research, government roles, and the private sector).

Textbook

*Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, by J. Wooldridge. (required)

*Using R for Introductory Econometrics*, by Heiss (optional)
Available online at [http://www.urfie.net/](http://www.urfie.net/)
This provides code to complete the exercises in Wooldridge.
**Course Delivery**

The course lectures will be delivered via synchronous online lectures. Labs will be delivered by synchronous online sessions. Recordings of lectures and labs will be posted on Brightspace. Students are encouraged to attend live lectures and labs to engage the instructors with questions as the material is delivered. One cannot learn econometrics without engaging with the material on a frequent and regular basis throughout the term. It’s not “cram friendly” material that can be learned the night before an exam.

There may be some asynchronous delivery of lectures if I’m unable to deliver a particular lecture during the scheduled time.

**Grading**

Assessment will be based largely and possibly entirely on multiple choice quizzes and exams. Under normal (face to face exams) circumstances, my 345 exams are a mix of multiple choice and written answers (solving math). While having some component of the course assessed using written answers is ideal, Brightspace is very poorly designed for delivering written response exams that can be hand-graded in a reasonably timely manner. Therefore, due to the circumstances of Covid and the University’s choice of Brightspace as a learning system, I will need to use multiple choice exams to assess you in this Covid-edition of the course.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

- **Midterm 1:** 30%
- **Midterm 2:** 30%
- **Lab Participation:** 5%
- **“Weekly” problem sets*:** 5%
- **“Weekly” quizzes*:** 10%
- **Midterm 3:** 20%

There will be quizzes and problem sets most weeks, but not every week. Quizzes will generally be easier than exams. The point of quizzes is to provide you with an incentive to maintain continuous engagement with the material. If you’re attending lectures and keeping up on the readings, quizzes should be relatively straightforward. Exams will require a deeper understanding of the material to facilitate solving more difficult problems. Such deeper understanding will come from solving the problem sets and thinking carefully about how they relate to the text and lectures.

**Problem Sets**

You will receive a series of ungraded problem sets throughout the course. Solutions will be provided. Get in the habit (as you should in all of your more technical courses) of trying very hard to get the answer to the problem without looking at the solutions. Learning happens during the struggle to figure out a problem on your own. Very little learning happens from looking at the correct answer to a problem.
Midterms

The midterm exams are scheduled for:

*Thursday June 10*
*Thursday July 8*
*Monday July 26*

All midterm exams will be held during regular scheduled lecture time.

Final exam

The summer exam timetable will be posted by mid-June. Do not make any plans that would limit your availability to take the final exam, as alternative seatings will not be granted.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students should review the University's more detailed summary of grading.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Wooldridge Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Exam Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Intro and Statistics Review</td>
<td>Appendices A-C</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Intro and Statistics Review</td>
<td>Appendices A-C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Univariate Regression</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multivariate Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inference</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>June 10 Midterm 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymptotics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Model specification issues</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dummy variables</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Time Series</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>July 8 Midterm 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Time Series</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heteroskedasticity</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Determining Causality and Instrumental Variables</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>July 26 Midterm 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
E-mail correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations

Participation online for all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course. Please do not ask me to do either of these things.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not turn up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course without notice.
• Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
• Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

**University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness**
The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.
See [General University Policies](#)

**Accessibility & Health Resources**

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#)  
Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students
• Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
• International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[ Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.
**Elders’ Voices** - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

**Brightspace**

- *Brightspace* is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace* Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.
- All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

**Course Experience Survey (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](http://ceslink). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

**Repeating Courses**

Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](http://calendar). In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the [Repeating Courses](http://repeating) policy on the Economics website. Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

**Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response**

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please
contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.