ECON 245 A01
Descriptive Statistics and Probability
CRN 31117

Summer Session: Second Term 2019 05
Class Web Page - http://web.uvic.ca/~bettyj/245

INSTRUCTOR: Betty J. Johnson
Office: BEC 324
E_Mail: bettyj@uvic.ca
Office phone: (250) 721-8547

OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 1:30-2:15 p.m. or by appointment.

Course Content

The objective of this course is to introduce you to techniques and tools to deal with economic data and economic applications. Probability theory and descriptive statistics are central to modern applied economics. A clear understanding of such ideas is important in the subsequent study of economics.

Economics 245 is the foundation of a series of courses in the teaching of quantitative economics. In particular, it will introduce you to basic statistical concepts and characteristics of economic data. By providing insight into various economic data sets, you will be better equipped to summarize and interpret economic events in a meaningful and efficient fashion.

The course is roughly divided into two components: (i) descriptive economic statistics and (ii) probability and random variables. Part (i) deals essentially with how to describe and summarize characteristics of economic data. In the process of doing this we will learn about some aspects of data manipulation that are central to the way in which agencies, such as Statistics Canada, publish economic information. Part (ii) provides applications of probability, and insight into the statistical characteristics of random sampling. Such background material is necessary for us to subsequently learn about statistical inference, a topic that forms the basis for Economics 246.

LECTURES: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m., Clearihue A212.
LABORATORY CLASSES:

Laboratory classes are scheduled for this course. You need to register in a Laboratory section. The Laboratory sessions cover formal classwork, with an instructor present, and they run all term. The first few laboratory classes are designed to provide you with an introduction to the Computing Laboratory facilities, and to the EVIEWS computing package.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lab Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>CRN#</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>TA name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B01</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>31118</td>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>BEC Lab 180</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B02</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>31119</td>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>BEC Lab 180</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B03</td>
<td>Monday &amp; Wednesday</td>
<td>31120</td>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>BEC Lab 180</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Textbook (required)

Statistics for Business and Economics, 8/E
Paul Newbold
William Carlson
Betty Thorne

Paul Newbold, William L. Carlson and Betty Thorne, Statistics for Business and Economics, Eighth Edition (Pearson.), 2013. This text is referred to as NC&T in the following course outline.) Other material that is handed out in class, such as assignments, solutions, etc. will be available on the class web page.

Grading
The final grade is determined as follows:

Assignments (3) using MyStatLab: 15%
Labs (10) Eviews: 10%
Weekly Wednesday Quiz: 5% (TopHat)
Term Test (1): 35% (2 hours).
Final Exam: 35% (2 hours)
Assignment(s):
There are three online assignments. Assignments will be posted on MYEconLab well ahead of the due date and will close at 3 pm PST on the due date. Make sure you have set up your account before you start the assignment.

Midterm: The midterm exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 5th**. It will be 2 hours long.

Final exam: Last day of class June 28th.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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</table>

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

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 (No more than 5 missed classes are permitted.)
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations
Attendance at 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.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Waitlist Policies
- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- 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 show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- 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**
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 [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD)](#) (now known as CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The RCSD 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.

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**Centre for Accessible Learning**
The Centre for Accessible Learning is part of UVic’s [Division of Student Affairs](#). We work with faculty and students to promote educational equity and accessibility for students with disabilities. We support students in achieving academic goals.

**Why register with CAL?**
Are you a student with a learning disability, ADHD, mental health issue or long-term recurring physical or sensory disability? Do you have chronic health issues?

If you do, and you want to be part of our programs, or need academic accommodations to address barriers to your education, you need to [register with the Centre for Accessible Learning](#).

After you [register](#), we’ll work with you, your instructors and others to create learning environments that are equitable, inclusive and usable.

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**Tophat**
- Tophat is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system.
- Some of the lecture notes will be posted in Tophat.
- Attendance will be taken in Tophat.
- In class quizzes will be given using Tophat
**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. 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.

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the Repeating Courses policy on the Economics website.

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Dates and Exam Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asmt 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 2 and 3</td>
<td>2 &amp; 16</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Asmt 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 4 and 5</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Asmt 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic 6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6-7</td>
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</table>

**Learning Outcomes**

*Economics 245 is the first of a series of courses dealing with statistics and econometrics. At the end of the course students should:*
- Understand how to appropriately deal with describing and analyzing basic data sets using economic data.
- Perform simple probability
- Enhance their personal understanding of Canadian data collection agencies.*
**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.

**Electronic devices**

As of yet, electronic devices are only used in class for attendance and in-class quizzes. Please put your electronic devices away during class.

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**Summer Session - 2019**

See [www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/tuition](http://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/tuition) for Summer Session add and drop dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**May 2019**

- 3 Friday: Senate meets
- 6 Monday: May-August courses begin for all faculties
- 13 Monday: Last day for Faculty of Law course changes (for more details regarding Summer 2019 and Summer 2019 Important Dates, see [www.uvic.ca/law/jd/courseregistration](http://www.uvic.ca/law/jd/courseregistration))
- 19 Sunday: Last day for graduate students to register in a personal leave in summer
- 20 Monday: Victoria Day
- 23 Thursday: Senate Committee on Academic Standards meets to approve Convocation lists
- 31 Friday: Fees deadlines for summer (see Add and Drop Dates for Standard Summer Courses)

**June 2019**

- 5 Wednesday: May courses end
- 6 Thursday: June courses begin
- 10-14 Monday-Friday: Spring Convocation
- 28 Friday: May-June and June courses end
Undergraduate registration dates & deadlines
Summer session 2019

UVic’s Summer session is made up of seven terms that start and end on the dates outlined below. Since each term is slightly different, the fee reduction and academic drop deadlines vary. Check the information below to ensure you use the dates specific for your courses.

Law and graduate students, see the Academic Calendar for dates unique to your programs. UVic maintains a ten-year schedule of future sessional calendar dates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course starts</th>
<th>Course ends</th>
<th>Course drop 100% refund</th>
<th>Last day to add courses</th>
<th>Course drop 50% refund</th>
<th>Academic drop no refund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Aug 2</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>July 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>May 19</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>June 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>July 9</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>Aug 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>May 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>June 28</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>June 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>July 25</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>July 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Aug 19</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>Aug 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer tuition and fees
The balance of fees is due by May 31, 2019.
### Term Assessment - Summer 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) May 13</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) May 20 Labs Start</td>
<td>20 Victoria Day</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24 Asmt #1 due @ 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) May 27</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) June 3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5 Midterm</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7 Asmt #2 due @ 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) June 10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) June 17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Asmt #3 due @ 3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) June 24</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The real cause of increasing autism prevalence?**

![Graph showing correlation between autism diagnoses and organic food sales](image1)

**Statistics show that most people born on December 25th enjoy a dual celebration...**

![Image of a statistics professor](image2)