

Winthrop University
College of Business Administration
Economics 306 – Section 001
Econometrics
Fall 2010

9:30 – 10:45am Tuesday/Thursday
Carroll Hall 221/222
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Laura D. Ullrich
Office: 104 Thurmond Building
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 pm
Tuesday 3:15 – 4:45 pm
Wednesday 9:30 – 11:00 am; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
(and by appointment)
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Catalog Description

This course will prepare students for basic empirical work in economics and business. Students will learn data analysis and regression analysis and have the opportunity to use real data to test economic hypotheses.

Prerequisites

ECON 215 and QMTH 206 or MATH 141 or MATH 541

Introduction

Welcome to Economics 306, Econometrics. This course will cover basic econometric analysis, including simple and multiple regression analysis, hypothesis testing, model selection, and data collection techniques. We will also spend a significant amount of time developing your statistical software knowledge through the use of the widely-used software STATA. Particular attention will be paid to the assumptions of regression analysis and the diagnostic and corrective procedures that must be used when the assumptions are violated.

I have multiple objectives for this course. The first objective is to teach you to apply economic theory in the analysis of real life questions. So, you want to know how batting averages impact MLB salaries? You will be able to analyze this by the end of the semester. This knowledge will allow you to answer many, many questions that may arise in your other courses. Secondly, this class will give you a great deal of experience using computers in order to analyze data sets. These skills are HIGHLY desired by employers and will be invaluable for those of you who continue on to graduate school (of any kind). The third objective is to give you the basic knowledge and skills you will need to complete future research in other courses or on the side for publication with a faculty member.

Some of the topics in this class will be intimidating and difficult, but I honestly hope that each of you will enjoy the class and will feel as though it is a valuable part of your economics curriculum.

Disability Services

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact Gena Smith, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities, at 323-3290, as soon as possible. Once you have your Professor Notification Form, please tell me so that I am aware of your accommodations well before the first assignment, test, or paper.

Student Conduct

As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy in the Student Handbook, which can be found online at <http://www3.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense because it diminishes the quality of scholarship and the learning experience for everyone on campus. An act of academic dishonesty may lead to such penalties as reduction of grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. I reserve the right to assign a grade of zero for actions involving violations of Winthrop’s Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

Technology Policy

Cell phones or related devices **are not allowed at any time** during class. Text messaging in class is strictly prohibited. You will be asked to leave class and will be counted absent if you are texting while class is in session or if your phone rings repeatedly.

Students are permitted to use a calculator during tests when needed, but it must be a basic calculator without storage functions (e.g. a dollar store calculator). Any student who is caught using an electronic device such as a cell phone, PDA, Blackberry, iPod, etc. during an exam will be subject to academic dishonesty prosecution.

This classroom is filled with fabulous technology that we will *sometimes* utilize. Students are **STRICTLY** prohibited from using the computers for purposes not associated with the course. I have access to technology that can show me (in the front of the room) what every computer is doing at any given time. Please don’t make this an issue. I know it’s tempting, but I will have to be strict on this one in order to keep us on task.

Required Texts

Introduction to Econometrics (2nd edition), Stock and Watson, Addison Wesley, Pearson, 2006

Recommended Text

A Gentle Introduction to STATA (2nd edition), Acock, STATA Press, 2008

Attendance

I expect you to attend class. **Period**. Attending class is the only way that you will do well in this class as I do not teach directly from the book and often bring in outside material/examples. I will

take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you are absent you will need to obtain notes from a fellow classmate; I will not be able to provide you with notes.

The Winthrop University attendance policy states that any student missing more than 25% of the class meetings will receive an F in that class. Therefore, if you miss more than 8 class periods during the semester you will receive an automatic F in the class regardless of performance on tests and quizzes.

Midterm(s)

There will be only be two exams given in this class due to the weight of the term paper later in the semester. Both exams will be given in the first half of the semester. The tests will be short answer/essay format. **NO MAKEUP TESTS WILL BE GIVEN.** You will be allowed to shift that portion of your grade to the other exam only if I am notified of the issue at least one day prior to the test. In other words, if we have a test on Tuesday, I must receive an e-mail from you by 5:00 pm on Monday stating the reason for your absence. Otherwise you will receive a zero for that test. You may only be excused from a test under special circumstances (i.e., death in the family or severe illness). Not being able to get a ride to class or going to the beach for a long weekend are not acceptable excuses.

Tentative Exam Dates: September 14, October 7th

The following things are not allowed during examinations in this course:

- Use of technological devices (see previous policy)
- Using the restroom. The class is only 75 minutes long, so you shouldn't have any problems. Make sure you go right before class!
- Talking to your classmates
- Sleeping ☺

Problem Sets

Three problem sets will be given in the second half of the semester in lieu of a final exam/second test. These sets will utilize your knowledge of STATA and the manipulation of data. STATA is available for you to use at any time in the Thurmond computer lab and other computer labs on campus. You may also purchase STATA at a reduced price to put on your own personal computer (contact me if you're interested). We will utilize computers during some class periods in order to learn the software. You will have one week to complete each assignment. All problem sets must be typed and turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. No exceptions will be made.

Term Paper

The term paper is a very important part of this class. I want you to complete a small research project during the semester. There will be multiple grading opportunities throughout the semester related to the paper (e.g. turning in of abstract, dataset, etc.). During the last week of class and the final exam period you will each present your research paper and your econometric findings. I will be available to help you throughout the process. Don't be intimidated...I think you will enjoy this (in as much as you can enjoy a term paper). ☺

Grading

Test 40%

Problem Sets 30%

Term Paper and Presentation 30%

Grading Scale

90-100 A

80-89.9 B

70-79.9 C

60-69.9 D

<60 F

Important Dates of Note:

Course drop/add deadline: August 27

Course withdrawal deadline: October 22

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a contractual policy between the instructor and student. It is presumed that every student has read the syllabus completely, understands his/her individual responsibilities, and accepts full responsibility for meeting all course requirements as set forth therein. Should there be a need to make a change in the posted syllabus, an announcement will be made in class and also via email, well in advance of any change. The final exam date and time and the grading policies will not change.

Anticipated Course Outline

Chapter 1 Economic Questions and Data

Chapter 2 Review of Probability

Chapter 3 Review of Statistics

EXAM ONE

Chapter 4 Linear Regression with One Regressor

Chapter 5 Regression with a Single Regressor: Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals

Chapter 6 Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors

EXAM TWO

Chapter 7 Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals in Multiple Regression

Chapter 8 Nonlinear Regression Functions

Chapter 10 Regression with Panel Data

Chapter 11 Regression with a Binary Dependent Variable

Chapter 13 Experiments and Quasi-Experiments