

BUEC 333, Summer 2017: Syllabus

Course: Statistical Analysis of Economic Data
Course website: <http://chrismuris.github.io/buec333/>
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This document

This document outlines some basic organization features about this course. You are expected to regularly check the course website and SFU Canvas for updated information about the course.

What to expect in this course

This course will introduce you to the statistical analysis of economic data: econometrics. We will focus on linear regression, which is by far the most common method for analyzing the relationship between two or more variables. The main things you will learn in this class are how to apply regression methods to economic data and how to interpret the results of econometric analysis. You will also get some experience using statistical software (R), and establish a foundation for further econometric study. Assignments, readings, etc. will be posted on the course website.

Readings

The text for the course is Stock and Watson, “Introductory Econometrics” (3rd edition, Updated, 2015). A schedule for the lectures and readings is available from the course website.

Labs

In all weeks following the online posting of the first assignment that involves work with R, there will be a TA in the lab. Location: see course website. Outside these hours, you can use the public computer lab, which have all the relevant software installed.

Tutorials

The tutorials are there for you to ask questions about parts of the problem sets that you found difficult to solve on your own, or to have a TA check your solutions. The job of the TA is to answer individual questions from you, and to check your solutions. Your TA is **not** going to **review the course material**, or **solve the problem sets**.

No tutorials during the first week, and in weeks with tests.

Tests

The two tests are closed-book (no book, notes, or graphical calculators are allowed). Although each tests emphasis the material in the weeks since the last test, they are cumulative. On top of **all** the readings, the material includes anything that I have discussed during the lectures, and anything you needed to complete the problem sets.

Hand-in assignments

There are six graded assignments consisting of both exam-type questions and computer exercises. The assignments will be posted on the course website. You are expected to work independently on the assignments. We check your work for plagiarism. Cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course.

- Hand in your answers at the start of **your** tutorial in the week indicated in the schedule on the course website.
- Late assignments are not accepted (0 points). *Late* means that you did not hand it in by the start of **your** tutorial.
- We count the best 4 out of your 6 assignments.
- For grading, we randomly select one question from the assignment. Your performance on that question determines your score for that assignment.

Collaboration and Copying

Although students are encouraged to work together on the understanding and conceptualization of the material (this is, in fact, one of the best ways to learn), direct copying of another student's work is not allowed. If you hand in work that you did not do yourself, I will seek the maximum penalty. It is fine to use published resources, such as books, journals and the Internet **provided that you supply a reference**.

Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on hand-in assignments (weight 1/3) and two tests (each has weight 1/3).

Regrading

If you feel that an assignment or test was graded with error, or was unfairly graded, you can submit a request for a regrading. No additional points will be awarded without such a request. Note that a regrading can result in a **lower grade**, as I will typically regrade all questions. A form for requesting a regrade can be found on the website. You must hand in the regrade request **within one week** of the test. You must hand it to me in person, or place it in my mailbox.

Illness during midterms, exams, and on assignment deadline dates:

It can happen that you are ill and feel that you cannot write your midterm, your exam, or hand in your assignment. SFU policy states that I have full discretion about accepting your doctor's note or not and that I am the only person who can exempt you from writing the exam.

Therefore, you should know which rules I will enforce. As a **default**, I will award you **0 points**.

However, I will consider giving a retake or a deadline extension if:

- General info: <http://students.sfu.ca/health/healthclinics/sicknotes.html>
- You submit this form: <https://www.sfu.ca/content/dam/sfu/students/pdf/healthcare-statement-general.pdf>
- You signed it, so that I am allowed to contact your health care provider (I will!)
- The doctor saw you on or before the date of the exam
- You submit the form before the end of the day after the exam
- You submit it in person (to Econ secretary if I am not available) or electronically

If you are awarded a retake, it will be an oral exam on the Monday following the test.