INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC STATISTICS
Econ 381
Spring 1985

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Office Hours: 10-12 MWF


SCSS Users Manual for Economics 381, University of Colorado, Charles E. Boering

Optional; Problems Exercises and Case Studies, for Mansfield

GRADING: 25% of your grade will be based on your performance and attendance in recitation. 66% of your grade will come from three equally-weighted exams. The remaining 9% of your grade will come from two computer assisted assignments.

EXAMS: The exams will be 50 minute exams. The dates of the first two exams will be announced in class as we approach them. I will let you know as soon as I have them figured out. You will get at least one week's notice and I will try to give you two week's notice if I can. The third exam will be given during the last hour of the final exam period. During the first two hours of the final exam period there will be an optional review exam. If you choose to take this review exam, and do better on this than you did on the first two exams (as a pair), it will replace your first two exams (as a pair).

THERE WILL BE NO EARLY, LATE, OR MAKE-UP EXAMS GIVEN.

READING AND PROBLEMS: Homework will be assigned day by day in class. There will be both reading and problem assignments. The problems are not to be turned in. Answers to odd numbered problems are in your text. You are expected to do both the reading and the problems as they are assigned. I am generally pleased with your text, but I will do some things a bit differently. The way things are done in class will supercede the way your text does them.

RECITATION: There are two one-hour recitations for this class. You must sign up for one of them. I will have the sign up sheets. I know this will cause some inconvenience since they were not listed in the original spring schedule, and for this I apologize.
One is at 5pm Thurs. and the other is at 8am Fri. These are both less than desirable times, but they are what we have been assigned so we will have to live with them. Attendance will be taken in each recitation at the beginning. In recitation we will go over homework problems. I will call on people who will go to the board to work various parts of assigned problems. This is where I will show you recommended ways of setting up and showing your work for exam problems. This is also where exams will be returned and gone over.

CALCULATORS: You will need one for both homework and exams. At a minimum it will have to do squares and square roots. Up to two memories will be helpful but not essential. Calculators that perform statistical and regression operations are acceptable, but you will still have to show your work on exams to get full credit. Therefore, I advise against taking the easy way out when you do your homework.

TIME, RESPONSIBILITIES, ETC.: This course is incredibly time consuming. Count on needing to devote somewhere between 12 and 16 hours a week (each and every week) to this course. This includes 4 hours a week spent in lecture and recitation. If you are not satisfied with your understanding of the material or your performance in the class and are not devoting this much time to the course, you should consider that to be at least part of the problem. There is no way in hell that you can learn a whole exam's worth of material in the last 3 days (or week) before an exam and I have no sympathy for those who try to get by that way. Most of the out of class time will be spent solving problems. These aren't necessarily difficult, but they do take time and there is no substitute for working problems and lots of them. (Don't just look at the problem and the answer and say, "I see how to do that." Get in and get your hands dirty.)

Your schedule (school, work, and personal) should be such as to allow you to attend all lectures and recitations (without arriving late or leaving early) and devote the above amount of time to the course. If it isn't, do something about it.

You will be responsible for everything that goes on in class and in your recitation (whether or not you are there), all assigned text material, and all material in handouts (including this one), except for material I specifically exclude.

Finally, I know that no matter how well one sets up a schedule, unforeseen events can occur that impair school performance. To the extent that it is possible, and to the extent that the event is somewhat more important than a great party or a really hot date (even though both of these are really important in my life), I will try to work with you to minimize the negative effect on your schoolwork -- IF you will let me know what is happening as soon as you can. I know this can be difficult and/or you may feel reluctant to tell me your personal problems, but if you wait until you blow an exam (or some other such thing) I will be able to do absolutely nothing.