Introduction: Economics 3818 is a one-semester course in mathematical statistics for economics majors. Approximately two-thirds of the course is devoted to traditional statistical methods (descriptive measures, probability distributions, estimation and hypothesis testing), and one-third of the course to the basic tool of applied economists, regression analysis. The goal of the course is for students to be able to understand the literature of applied economics, and to do basic data analysis.

Prerequisites: Presentation of the material of the course relies on basic algebra (high school algebra II), including function and summation notation, linear equations, and subscripted variables. Calculus is not required. Familiarity with microcomputers is also essential—the problem sets, especially later in the course, must be done with a computer.

Requirements and grading: There will be three lectures and one recitation per week. Approximately ten problem sets, partly graded and contributing 20% to the course grade, will be distributed in recitation. Two hourly exams, Fridays, September 25 and November 6, and the final exam will contribute 20%, 25%, and 35%, respectively, to the course grade.


Tentative course outline:

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