

## **Economics 3818 - 100 Course Information**

Lecture: MWF 11:00 - 11:50 am, Hale 270

Instructor: Professor Donald M. Waldman, Econ room 108

Tentative office hours: M/W 12:00pm - 1:30pm, and by appointment

Email: waldman@colorado.edu

Course web site: D2L

### **I. General**

Economics 3818 is a one-semester course in statistics, required of economics majors. We will study basic probability and probability distributions, especially the normal distribution, and descriptive and inferential statistics, including estimation and hypothesis testing. Emphasis is on both theory and applications. Weekly problem sets will explore issues in statistical theory and practice. The course will use Microsoft Excel to do data analysis on hypothetical and real-world data.

### **II. Requirements (% of course grade)**

- *Three midterm exams* (15% each), given in class, dates to be announced;
- *Weekly Problem sets* (20%);
- *Final exam* (20%), Tuesday, May 6, 7:30pm;
- *Weekly quizzes* (15%), given in recitation.

Course grades will be assigned as follows, based upon overall percentage course score:

|      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |     |
|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| < 60 | 60-65 | 66-69 | 70-73 | 74-76 | 77-79 | 80-83 | 84-86 | 87-89 | 90-92 | 93+ |
| F    | D     | D+    | C-    | C     | C+    | B-    | B     | B+    | A-    | A   |

### **III. Prerequisites**

Course prerequisites are Economics 1000, or 2010 and 2020; and either Economics 1078 and 1088 or equivalent math courses. The latter prerequisites (math) are strictly enforced. If you are listed as not meeting the course prerequisites, please send me an email indicating that you have indeed met them.

**IV. Text:** Caniglia, Statistics for Economists, An Intuitive Approach, HarperCollins Publisher, 1991 (out of print, but available in soft cover at the CU bookstore for \$60). There

is no disk or key to unlock a publisher web site associated with this book, and there is only one edition, so that any used copy is equivalent to a new copy. At this date there are 18 used, hard copies available on Amazon, also for \$60. The text has been used for this course at CU for the last three semesters.

## **V. Course Outline**

Lectures will approximately follow the text, beginning with chapter 5 and ending with chapter 13 (if time permits). The last chapter is an introduction to the topic of regression analysis, the major empirical tool of applied economists, and the subject of Econ 4818 and 4848.

## **VI. Miscellaneous**

- **Hardware and Software:** Microsoft Excel will be used for data analysis. There are many excellent Excel manuals available. Excel is supported in all of the campus computer labs, including the lab in the basement of the Economics building. In addition to using Excel, you will need a simple calculator for the exams.
- **Special Accommodations Policy:** If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodation, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671). Furthermore, if you require time off for special religious or cultural holidays, this should be arranged in advance with me.
- **Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Breaches of this policy will result in a course grade of F and a reporting of the incident to academic affairs.
- **Administrative Drop from Class:** if a student is not present for the first three classes, he or she will be administratively dropped from the class.