

Economics 4848 Applied Econometrics

Fall 2019

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Course Description

Applied Econometrics provides an overview of econometric techniques commonly used in applied research in microeconomics. Methods and topics covered in this course will help students develop a deeper understanding of econometrics as well as learn to use STATA, a statistical software package commonly used in economics. Learning to use STATA will take a significant amount of time and effort but will be extremely valuable as it is much more powerful than what you can do in Excel, EViews, etc. Students will apply the econometric models using data from the US Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition, students will be able to apply these skills to a research topic of their choosing.

Typically each week we will discuss the theory for the current topic and then spend some time working with data to apply the theory in STATA. This data analysis that we do in class will be similar to your assignments, however the theory behind the techniques we use will also be covered on exams.

Prerequisite

This class requires previous completion of Econ 3070, Intermediate Micro, and Econ 3818, Intro to Statistics, or the equivalent.

Course Materials

There is no required text but you may find the following resources helpful:

- Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach by Jeffery M. Wooldridge
- Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide by A.H. Studenmund

Software: We will be learning to use a statistical software program called STATA in class. For all assignments, projects, and exams you will be required to complete all analysis using STATA. Students are not required to purchase their own copies of STATA, as it is available in the computer lab in the basement of the economics building. Note that the economics building is closed on weekends. If you choose not to buy Stata, please plan your work time accordingly. No late assignments will be accepted because you could not access the computer lab on the weekend. You can find a list of other campus labs with STATA at:

<http://webdata.colorado.edu/labs/softwaresearch/>

If you choose to purchase your own copy of STATA, it will allow you to work on assignments and your project outside the computer labs. Students can receive a discount on the software through the University's GradPlan. Information is available at: <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>. I would suggest Stata/IC license which is \$48 for 6 months.

Hardware: You will need a USB memory device to store copies of data and log files from our work in class.

Grade Breakdown

Grades for this course will be based on the following criteria:

- Assignments (15% total)
- Data project and presentation (20%)
- 2 Midterm Exams (20% each)
- Final Exam (25%)

Final grades will be determined by your cumulative performance at the end of the semester, and this may or may not correspond to the typical ten-point grading scale (A's are 90-100, B's are 80-89, etc.) If the final distribution of grades are lower than expected, I reserve the right to change the grading scale at that time.

Assignments (15% total): Students may work alone or with **one** other student. If you work with a partner please upload one assignment for both of you. Assignments must be uploaded on Canvas by 10:00pm on the day they are due. No late assignments will be accepted for any reason. Your lowest homework assignment will be dropped from your overall score for the course. While you will be able to work with a classmate on your homework, your exams will be completed individually. Therefore, it is in your best interest to ensure you fully understand the material.

Midterm Exams (20% each): Midterm exams will be held on **October 1** and **October 31** during the regularly scheduled class time. The exams will be similar to your homework assignments in that you will be given some data to analyze with accompanying questions and a few theory based questions. Given the nature of programming in STATA and this course, all exams should be considered "cumulative" in the sense that you will need to know how to do any and all of the tasks we've learned throughout the semester. The theory sections of each exam will be non-cumulative.

Students must take exams at scheduled times so ensure now that you can attend class the dates of the exams. Exams may not be taken early/late and no make ups are given. If you must miss a midterm exam due to an emergency the weight of the midterm will automatically be divided between the other midterm and final exam. Midterm exam scores will not be dropped due to poor performance or lack of preparation. You **cannot** miss both midterm exams.

Final Exam (25%): The final exam is **Sunday, December 15th from 4:30-6:30pm**. This exam cannot be skipped or taken at another time so plan accordingly.

Data Project and Presentation (20%): Students may work alone or with **one** other student on a data analysis project applying what you've learned in the course. Assignments are due at 10:00pm unless otherwise noted. Your written project is due by **10:00pm on Monday, December 16th**. You should start thinking about your topic as soon as possible at the beginning of the semester. Your project should pose a testable economic question that can be answered using one of the techniques we discuss in applied econometrics and using individual level data. A sample outline of what to include in your project: Introduce your research question and why it is an important topic to study, citing any relevant sources. Describe the data and empirical technique(s) you use. Conduct one or more types of empirical analysis on your data using techniques from the course. Discuss and interpret your empirical findings. (Roughly 8-10 pages, double-spaced, including figures and tables.) All tables or figures included should be **nicely formatted and concise, i.e. not just copy/pasted from the STATA output**.

Your research question must be something that can be answered using the individual level data that is available in either the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey or the Current Population Survey. We will spend time in class on what is available and how to extract and build your data set from the data repository IPUMS where these surveys are stored. This data source is **required** to be used by all students unless given special permission by the instructor.

As part of your grade for the project, your chosen research question will be due on **Oct 8**, a project proposal will be due on **Oct 25**, your cleaned data set will be due on **Nov 5**, and your preliminary analysis will be due on **Nov 17**. Individual meetings will be scheduled the week of November 18-22, in lieu of regular class. In addition, each student/group will give a presentation the week of December 9th discussing their research question, data, methods, and results. Both students must present part of their project if working in a group. Due dates for these portions of your project appear in blue in the schedule.

Your overall grade for the final project will be determined as follows: Research Question (5 points), Project Proposal (15 points), Data set submission (10 points), Initial Data Analysis (15 points), Presentation (15 points), Final Paper (30 points), Corrections to Assignments (10 points).

Additional Policies

Attendance: *Attendance is an absolute necessity in this course.* It is where I can help guide you in learning STATA and completing a good research project, and you can get feedback on where improvement is needed. Students are expected to be in attendance **on time** for every class, as it may be difficult for you to make up the material and fully understand programming in STATA otherwise. It is your responsibility to obtain any material/notes from a class you miss from one of your classmates. **Attendance will be recorded every class period and any student missing more than 6 class periods will automatically fail the course.** These absences up to 6 are intended to cover any manner of reasons why you might need to miss class, valid or otherwise. These

penalties are **non-negotiable**. Those arriving late, leaving before class is dismissed, spending significant time on non-class activities will also be counted as absent.

This course typically has a long waitlist of students trying to enroll in the class. So, in-line with department policy, if a student does not attend class for the first three class periods he/she will be administratively dropped from the course to make room for others on the waitlist.

Disability Accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [for further assistance](#). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious Observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance.

Honor Code: All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273) and will result in a failing grade for the course. Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#). This misconduct includes, but is not limited to: Represent the work of others as their own, Use or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic assignment, Give unauthorized assistance to other students, Modify, without instructor approval, an examination, paper, record, or report for the purpose of obtaining additional credit, Misrepresent the content of submitted work.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Related Retaliation: he University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CUs Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulders Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation

can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the [policies on classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Since the course is in the computer lab, I realize that there can be the temptation to work on other things during lecture, browse the internet, etc. However, as a courtesy to me and your classmates, as well as to ensure you understand the presented material, I ask that during lectures (non-lab activities) you only use the computers to follow along with the slides and not for any other purpose.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	August 26-30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Information, types of data • Statistics and Sampling, ACS/CPS Introduction 	
Week 2	September 3-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to STATA, Creating Variables 	
Week 3	September 9-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating Variables • Exploring Continuous & Categorical Data 	Homework 1 Due 9/12
Week 4	September 16-20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivariate Regression, Distribution of $\hat{\beta}$ 	
Week 5	September 23-27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypothesis Testing • Goodness of Fit Measures 	Homework 2 Due 9/24
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues., Oct 1: Multivariate Regression, Project Overview • Thurs., October 3: Exam 1 	Homework 3 Due 10/1
Week 7	October 7-11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-linear Models • Interpreting Coefficients in Non-Linear Models 	Research Q due 10/8 in class
Week 8	October 14-18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Categorical Variables in Regressions, Interaction Models 	Homework 4 Due 10/15
Week 9	October 21-25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Dependent Variables 	Homework 5 Due 10/22; Proposal Due 10/25
Week 10	Oct 28 - Nov 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tues., Oct 29: ACS/CPS Tutorial • Thurs., Oct 31: Exam 2 	Homework 6 Due 10/29
Week 11	November 4-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omitted Variable Bias 	Data Set Due 11/5
Week 12	November 11-15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heteroskedasticity, Multicollinearity 	Homework 7 Due 11/12 Prelim. Analysis Due 11/17
Week 13	November 18-22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Meetings, Schedule TBD 	Homework 8 Due 11/19
Week 14	November 25-29; Fall Break: No Class	
Week 15	December 3-6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel Data, Fixed Effects 	Homework 9 Due 12/5
Week 16	December 9-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Presentations, Schedule TBD 	Presentation Due 12/10 at noon; Paper due 12/16
Week 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam Sunday, December 15th 4:30-6:30pm 	