

**Economics 3818 - Prof. Waldman  
Course Information**

Economics 3818 - 100  
TR CLRE Room 207 11:00 - 12:15

August 29, 2006

Instructor: Professor Donald M. Waldman  
Office and hours: Econ 108, T: 3:30-5:00 am, R 8:00 - 9:30 p.m., and by appointment  
email: waldman@colorado.edu

Teaching Assistant: tba  
Office and hours: tba  
email: tba

Recitation Time and Locations:

111 W: 12 - 12:50 a.m., Muen E 114  
112 M: 4 - 4:50 p.m., Econ 205  
113 W: 8 - 8:50 a.m., Econ 117

**I. General:** Economics 3818 is a one-semester course in statistics and econometrics required of economics majors. We will study basic probability and probability distributions, especially the normal, descriptive and inferential statistics, and the linear regression model. Emphasis is on both theory and applications. Weekly problem sets will explore issues in statistical theory, and the use of Microsoft Excel (or other spreadsheet software) to do data analysis on real economic data.

**II. Requirements:**

- *Periodic short quizzes* given in class throughout the semester. These quizzes will be worth a total of 10% of the final grade.
- *Two midterm exams* (15% each), given Thursday, September 28, and Thursday, November 2. There are no makeup exams. If you have an approved reason for missing an exam, the weight of that exam is added to the final exam.
- *Problem sets* (30%), due the beginning of class each Thursday starting September 7, except for September 28 and November 3 (midterm exams), and November 23 (Thanksgiving). Most problems will be taken from the text. The recitation sections, held before Thursday in the week, are a good opportunity to discuss problem sets. Problem sets will be graded and returned in recitation, and cannot be accepted after the due date.
- *Final exam*, Monday, December 18, 1:30 p.m. (30%).

### III. Prerequisites

Course prerequisites are Economics 1000, or 2010 and 2020; and Economics 1078 and 1088 or equivalent. These prerequisites are strictly enforced. If you are listed as not meeting the course prerequisites, you must show me that you have indeed met them. I will indicate on the first day of class who is so listed.

**IV. Text:** Introductory Statistics, 5th ed. by Wonnocott and Wonnocott. I have used this text in the recent past--there should be many second-hand copies available

**V. Course Outline:** Parts I, II, and III of the text will be covered. Major sections are

- I. Basic Probability and Statistics: weeks 1 - 5
- II. Inference for Means: weeks 6 - 10
- III. Regression Analysis: weeks 11 - 15

The last topic is the predominant tool of applied economists (and most other social scientists who deal with data). Those who wish to pursue regression analysis are encouraged to take Economics 4818, a course in econometrics that follows Economics 3818.

### VI. Miscellaneous

- **WebCT:** I will use WebCT to post problem sets, study materials, memos, quiz and exam answers, and anything else I find useful. Please become familiar with WebCT if you are not already, and check the course webpage often.
- **Hardware and Software:** Microsoft Excel will be used for much of the 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 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.