University of Colorado, Department of Economics
Econ 3818, Fall 2006
Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications

Instructor: Scott Holladay   **Class**: MWF 12:00-12:50
Office: ECON 414   **Room**: HALE 230
Office phone: 303-492-7709   **Office hours**: M 11:00-11:50, F 1:00-2:00
E-mail: James.Holladay@colorado.edu
Course website: http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~holladaj/fall06/3818

Course Objectives:
The course is designed as a rigorous introduction to statistics and econometrics for
economics students. For most of you this will be your first course in statistics. For this
reason, one of the goals of the course is to introduce you to many new concepts and
techniques, as well as interesting applications of these concepts. We will also learn to use
the same statistical tools employed by professional statisticians. This course begins with
an introduction to the tools used to describe samples of data from a population. There
will also be a brief introduction to probability theory. The course then covers estimation
and its application to confidence intervals and hypothesis testing. Finally, if time allows,
we will discuss single and multivariate regression analysis. These are the most important
tools used in econometrics.

There are no prerequisites for this course, but a good understanding of algebra is
essential. Attendance at all lectures and recitations is required. This course does not
have the level of technical difficulty of more advanced statistics and econometrics
courses. However, the large range of topics covered can make this course challenging.
The best way to succeed is to review the material after every lecture.

Grading:
The grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

Midterm 1	20%	September 22nd
Midterm 2	20%	October 28th
Final	30%	December 19th
Homework	20%	
Recitation	10%	

There will be no make up exams. A student who misses a midterm due to an excused
absence will have the additional weight shifted to the final.

Required Text: Statistics for Economics, An Intuitive Approach by Alan S. Caniglia.

Recitation: The recitation will be taught by Namsuk Choi. The determinants of your
recitation grade will be discussed by the TA in class.

Homework: One of the keys to understanding statistics is working practice problems. Example problems will be worked in class and recitation. Homework will be assigned most weeks and will include problems from the text and computer exercises. The problem set will be posted on the course website on Tuesday and discussed in recitation that week. The finished problem sets will be due at the beginning of class on Tuesday of the next week. Solution keys will be posted on the course website after the assignment is turned in.

Software: Microsoft Excel will be used for much of the data analysis in this course. Microsoft Excel is supported in all of the campus computer labs, including the lab in the basement of the Economics building.

Notes:
-The Economics Department will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students must notify their instructors no later than the first week of term, and provide documentation of the disability obtained from the Disabilities Services Office located in Willard Hall, Room 322.

-We will make reasonable accommodations for students who have conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments. Please talk to me at the beginning of the semester, if you think you may require such accommodation. For university policies on this and on other things, see www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html.

-For university policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the university honor code, see www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode