

**University of Colorado, Department of Economics**  
**Econ 3818, Spring 2008**  
**Introduction to Statistics with Computer Applications**

**Instructor:** Scott Holladay

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**Course website:** <http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~holladaj/3818>

**Class:** MWF 2:00-2:50

**Room:** HUMN 135

**Office hours:** M 1:00-2:00, F 3:00-4:00

**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%	Feb. 15 <sup>th</sup>
Midterm 2	20%	March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	30%	May 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1:30-4:00
Homework	15%	
Recitation	15%	

Dates are approximate and subject to change. 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. Excused absences must be approved in advance.

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

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned weekly, starting the second week of class. Each week homework will be posted to the course website on Monday and be at the beginning

of class on Friday. The homework will be graded for completeness and one question (selected at random) will be graded for accuracy. Late homeworks will not be accepted.

**Midterms:** Midterm exams will be given in class and consist of problems similar to those on the homeworks. The best review for the midterms is to study the homework problems. You may use calculators on the midterm and the class will decide on the use of formula sheets just before the first midterm. There will be no make-up tests.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of two portions. The first portion will be non-cumulative and cover material discussed in class since the second midterm. This section will be similar in structure to the first two midterms. The second section will be cumulative and include problems based on the most missed problems from the first two midterms.

**Recitation:** Recitation is required for this class. The recitation grade will be solely determined by the TA, Woong Jae Baek. He will discuss the determinants of the recitation grade during your section.

**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](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/index.html).

-For university policies on cheating and plagiarism, and the university honor code, see [www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode)

-For a link to the course website go to: <http://ucsu.colorado.edu/~holladaj>