

Economics 3818 - 200
Course Information

Economics 3818 - 200, TR 2:00 - 3:15, Clare Small 207

January 13, 2009

Web site for Addison Wesley MyCourse Compass: www.coursecompass.com/
Course ID: waldman26164

Note: enter Access codes in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS when registering for CourseCompass.

Instructor: Professor Donald M. Waldman
Office and hours: Econ 108, Wed, Thurs: 8:15am -9:45am.
email: waldman@colorado.edu

Teaching Assistant: Wooyoung Park
Office and hours: TBA
email: parkw@colorado.edu

Recitation Time and Locations:
211 3:30-4:20 T EDUC 231
212 3:30-4:20 R EDUC 155
213 4:00-4:50 M CLUB 4

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. Emphasis is on both theory and applications. Weekly problem sets will explore issues in statistical theory and practice. The course will use Microsoft Excel (or other spreadsheet software) to do data analysis on real-world data.

II. Requirements: You must have access to the Pearson CourseCompass web site, for online quizzes and problem sets, and class notes. Overall course score will be determined by:

- *Periodic short quizzes* (approximately 5, worth 30%), given in class unannounced throughout the semester.
- *One midterm exam* (20%), given in class Tuesday, March 24.
- *Weekly Problem sets* (approximately 10, worth 20%), completed online.
- *Final exam*, Saturday, May 2, 7:30 a. m. (30%).

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

< 60	60-67	67-70	70-73	73-77	77-80	80-83	83-87	87-90	90-93	93+
F	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

III. Attendance

Attendance in lecture is mandatory! The reasons for this are many:

- Since the text is optional and I will not be following it as closely as in some other courses, there is no way to learn the material except to come to class.
- Your presence in class is a positive externality (in the language of microeconomics). That is, a key to learning is a lively question and answer discussion that is only possible with all students present. So not only do I expect you to attend class, I expect you to ask questions when something is not clear, and to offer your own interpretations/insights into the material.
- Lectures are sequential in this course, so that missing a lecture and not studying what was missed before the next lecture is a recipe for disaster.
- If a student misses a class and then either comes to office hours or asks questions about the missed material in the next class, it wastes everyone's time.

So this is the attendance policy. Attendance will be taken. After the second missed class, each absence will result in a one-step reduction in course grade, that is, a B becomes a B-, a C- becomes a D+, etc.

There is one excused absence from class: too sick to attend. For this I require documentation. Unexcused absences include flight time inconvenience, Spring Break or other holiday extensions, job interviews, car problems, weather. So, please do not schedule your discretionary activities between Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you.

IV. Prerequisites

Course prerequisites are Economics 1000, or 2010 and 2020; and either Economics 1078 and 1088 or equivalent math courses. 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.

V. *Optional Text:* Intro Stats, 3rd ed. by De Veaux, Velleman, and Bock. Published by Pearson, Addison-Wesley, 2009. Purchase of a new text includes web access, but is not required. Otherwise, web access must be purchased from Pearson, which can be done online for \$65. The entire text is online with purchase of web site access.

Lectures will only approximately follow the text. The text covers some topics that are not part of this course, and does not treat other topics that are part of the course. Mathematical notation is a learning obstacle in statistics, and I will attempt to use the same notation as the text. The study plan, practice exams and quizzes available on the Pearson web site are all useful tools to learning.

VI. Course Outline:

I	Introduction, and Understanding Data	weeks 1 - 2
II	Probability and Random Variables	weeks 3 - 5
III	Sampling and Inferential Statistics	weeks 7 - 11
IV	Regression Analysis	weeks 12 - 15

VII. Miscellaneous

- **Hardware and Software:** Microsoft Excel will be used for data analysis. Although not required, 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.