ECON 3318-001: Introduction to Econometrics
Spring 2012
Course Syllabus

Course Details
Time: TTH 11:00AM-12:20PM
Room: COBA 339

Instructor Details
Instructor: Christy Spivey
Office: COBA 328
Office Hours: TTH 3:30 – 5:00PM, or by appointment
Email/Phone: cspivey@uta.edu / 817-272-1218
Blackboard: elearn.uta.edu

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes
This course is an introduction to regression analysis. Econometrics is a powerful tool that helps answer questions that arise out of economic theory with data. To that end, you will apply statistical techniques to test predictions about the relationships between variables. By the end of the semester you will be able to:
- Understand the conceptual basis for various econometric techniques
- Estimate parameters of a model using a statistical package
- Interpret the results of the estimations you perform
Understanding the conceptual basis for using specific techniques and interpreting the results is considered more important than the ability to prove mathematical results. This is reflected in the coursework.

Prerequisites
STAT 3321 (BUSA 3321) or MATH 3313

Recommended Book

Assessment
Your grade will be determined by 4 in-class econometrics quizzes, and a final exam. The percentage of total points will be allocated as follows:

Econometrics Quizzes 70%
Final Exam 30%

Your letter grade will be determined by the percentage of total points earned as follows:

A 90% and above
B 80 – 89.99%
C 70 – 79.99%
D 60 – 69.99%
F below 60%
You may wonder over the course of the semester if there will be a curve. The answer is almost certainly no, but if there is one, it is likely to be very small. So, you should absolutely not depend upon it. I do not determine this until the end of the semester after the final exam. However, you will have an idea of how you are progressing as the semester goes along. Please DO NOT inform me that you need a certain grade in the course in order to graduate, keep your scholarship, keep from getting kicked out of school, etc. I consider this to be a form of harassment. You will receive the grade you earn. In addition, I only assign incompletes in the course for documented health/family emergencies.

Quizzes
Quizzes will be given at regular intervals throughout the semester. Although the quizzes should be regarded as cumulative, they will emphasize material covered since the last quiz. You will be required to bring computer output from previous homework assignments (since the last quiz) to class for each quiz. You are not allowed to share these materials. Quiz dates are listed below. Please bring a pencil and non-programmable, scientific calculator to each quiz. No makeup quizzes will be given unless my permission is given BEFORE the quiz. You can take a makeup quiz early or late ONLY if you have appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note, not simply verification you went to the health center). If you do not contact me prior to a missed quiz you will receive a zero. Makeup quizzes must be taken before the next class meeting.

You will have the opportunity to increase points earned on quizzes by correcting your quizzes once they are handed back to you. Your lowest quiz grade will be replaced by the average of the corrected quiz grades. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, all 4 quizzes must be corrected (unless you receive a 100 on any quiz) and turned in on time. Quiz corrections are due the class period after the quiz is handed back. Late corrections will not be accepted. Please turn in a corrected quiz (correct only the questions on which you lost points) AND the original quiz. If for some reason I neglect to post a blank quiz for corrections, you may make corrections on a separate sheet of paper and attach them to the original quiz.

If you feel your original quiz has been graded incorrectly, please submit your issue in writing either on the front of the quiz or on a separate sheet of paper attached to the quiz when you hand in corrections. Please note the question number you are inquiring about and what you think is wrong. If you do not hand in corrections, you have one week after the original quiz has been returned to submit any issues to me. After that, no grade changes will be made.

Final Exam
The final exam will be cumulative. You must take the final exam at the university-scheduled time. It is my policy not to provide the day and time of the final exam. It is your responsibility to find the day and time online AND to confirm it with a classmate.

Homeworks
Most homework assignments will require you to manipulate datasets using a statistical package called Stata. It has been installed in our classroom for your use, and some class time will be allotted to completing the computer portion of homework assignments. Please see the lab schedule to see when Stata is available to you outside of class time. You may also choose to purchase Stata at a reduced rate, but this is not required. To purchase Stata, visit the following website: http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-direct.html. It can also be purchased at the bookstore. The 6-month license for Small Stata 12 should be sufficient. I will provide you
with instructions on how to use Stata. Datasets will be posted on Blackboard.

While homeworks are not officially collected, you are required to bring all output from current homework problems to the next quiz in the form of a Stata log file. These log files will allow you to answer some quiz questions. Therefore, failure to complete these exercises will jeopardize your chance of passing the quiz. You may work with others on your homework assignments, but you must have your own Stata log file(s) for all homework problems that require use of Stata. Note that some homework problems do not require use of Stata. However, completing these will also help you answer some quiz questions. Answers to all homework problems will be provided to you so that you can check your answers, but Stata code will not be provided. When turning in your quiz, please also turn in your Stata log file(s). The log file must include the starting and ending time of the Stata session. ONLY Stata log files containing regression output are permitted during quizzes; answers to homework problems and notes to yourself on how to work homework problems are NOT permitted.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 13</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 4</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 25</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 15</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of December 10</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Course Outline**

The following is a general schedule of the topics to be covered, as well as the readings that go along with the topics. I have created a tentative timetable for the topics, subject to change, as a separate handout.

**Topics:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Material</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction, What is Econometrics?</td>
<td>Chapter 1 (on your own)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review: Mathematical Tools, Probability, Statistics</td>
<td>Appendices A, B, C (on your own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Simple Regression Model</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Multiple Regression: Estimation</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Regression: Inference</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiple Regression: Further Issues</td>
<td>Chapter 6.2-6.4, Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Qualitative Independent Variables</td>
<td>Chapter 7.1-7.4</td>
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<td>Limited Dependent Variable Models</td>
<td>Chapter 7.5-7.6, 17.1</td>
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<td>Panel Data</td>
<td>Chapter 13, 14</td>
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<td>Time Series (if time allows)</td>
<td>Chapter 10, 12.1-12.3</td>
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**Expectations**

Treat this syllabus as a contract that you have “signed” by enrolling in the course. I will try to remind everyone of upcoming deadlines, but you are responsible for remembering all important dates. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester, although I will try not to do so. Any changes will be communicated to you via email and/or during class. You are responsible for being aware of these changes.

**Communication**

I will post documents such as PowerPoint slides, homeworks, datasets, and old quizzes on
Blackboard. I will also email you, so please check your university-provided email account daily. Please feel free to email me at the address listed above to ask a question or set up an appointment. I check email regularly Monday-Friday, but I cannot guarantee a quick response over the weekend or late at night. I will not be able to accommodate requests to call you on the telephone. I also request that you communicate with me if you have concerns about any aspect of the course. I appreciate feedback.

**Attendance**
You may notice that attendance is not a formal part of your assessment. However, I reserve the right to take attendance and use that information to give extra credit or when determining whether to “round up” when determining final grades. Thus, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class and arrive to class ON TIME (I understand there are legitimate reasons for being late, so please enter QUIETLY if you cannot help being late). You are also expected to silence your cell phone. **You are responsible for all material covered in class whether you are present or not (including material not covered in the text). If you miss a class, you should get notes from a classmate and review them BEFORE coming to me for help on that particular topic.** I will not provide you with class notes beyond what is contained in the PowerPoint slides.

**Keeping Up**
Taking notes will be much easier if you print the PowerPoint slides for the current topic and bring them to class. However, please realize that the slides do not include everything covered in class and are a poor substitute for taking your own notes. You should read the relevant sections of the text listed in the course outline as many times as needed to feel that you have a grasp on the material. This class requires that you master many skills, so keeping up with the material takes time, thought, and effort. It does not lend itself to all-night cram sessions. However, if you are willing to work hard understanding the concepts, you are likely to succeed in this course. I want everyone to do well, and everyone is given that opportunity. **Please ask questions in class and come see me during office hours (or schedule an appointment) if you need further clarification.** I do not know if you don’t understand something unless you tell me!

**Academic Integrity**
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

According to the UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” Per UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.
More specifically related to this course, academic dishonesty includes communicating with other students during quizzes and exams; referencing books, notes or “cheat sheets” during quizzes and exams (except when authorized); copying someone else’s answers when correcting quizzes; representing someone else’s Stata log files as your own; and fabricating data or regression results. In addition to the disciplinary action mentioned above, violators will automatically receive a grade of zero on the quiz or exam.

Administrative Policies

Drop Policy
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session (Oct. 31 for Fall 2012). Note: I am unable to sign a drop form after the official deadline. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Student Feedback Survey
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Student Support Services
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information
related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

**Electronic Communication**

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide me with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364. Please notify me no later than two weeks before the first exam concerning any academic accommodations you will need.

**Inclement Weather Policy**

In the event that the university cancels class due to inclement weather, any exam scheduled that day will automatically be scheduled during the next class period. Please check your university-provided email account regularly if bad weather is in the area.