ECON 211f (1)
Introduction to Econometrics
Spring 2006

SYLLABUS AND COURSE OUTLINE
(Subject to change)

Instructor: Tanseli Savaser
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Office Hours: F 3:15pm-5:15pm, PhD room
Classes: TF 1:40pm – 3:00pm, Lemberg 180

TA: TBA
Office Hours: TBA

Course Objectives The course is the first of the two consecutive modules on econometrics. We will start with the basics of statistics including some probability theory and random variables and then move on to sampling, estimation, hypothesis testing. We will cover the simple regression method as well as inference. Along the way, besides the basic concepts you will gain experience in applying them to actual data, and interpreting the results.

This class is for graduate students with no econometrics and regression analysis background. If you have taken any econometrics course, you should not take this course since most of the material will be repetitive. Also, you cannot take both this module and IBS210F at the same time in the same semester, because of the significant overlap in the subject material.

Since it will be just about impossible to understand the motivation for such analysis, or the logical interpretation of the results, without a foundation in economic theory, only people who have had some economics beyond an introductory course should take this class. Furthermore, people who are not comfortable with the basic statistical concepts will likely have some difficulty with this class.

Disability Clause If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Honesty Clause You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually at section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of the alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.
Textbook


Grading Information

Your grade for the course will be determined on the basis of the homework assignments (15%), class attendance, unannounced quizzes and participation (15%), midterm exam (30%) and a final exam (40%). The importance of keeping up with the homework assignments cannot be over-emphasized, and late solutions will not be accepted. The questions on the assignments are meant not only to serve as a review but also to explore issues introduced in the lectures. Class participation is also expected, and performance may be taken into account in assigning final grades. There will be a term paper in the following module, Econ 212. It is an empirical project, in which you will be responsible for analyzing a data set using the techniques developed in class. The results must be presented in a coherent essay, which will be graded on the basis of its internal logic, completeness, grammar and style, in addition to its statistical methodology. Those of you, who will take Econ 212, will submit a subject proposal for this empirical project before the end of this module and submit the complete term paper by the end of the second module. If you have any conflicts with the exams, let me know in advance. If you miss an exam without an acceptable legal document/reason (for example, illness supported by a medical report), no make-up exam will be given. There will be absolutely no make-up quizzes (since they are unannounced).

Course Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Basics of Probability Theory
3. The Two-Variable Model
4. Estimation and Testing
5. Simple Regression
6. Inference
7. Multiple Regression

Software to be used: Stata (available on the school network).

I strongly recommend you to get access to STATA a.s.a.p. You will need it for your problem sets which I will start to assign within a week. The TA will provide support for STATA related questions and hold an Introduction to STATA session in the beginning of the semester.

You can download the related course materials from webct <webct.brandeis.edu>.