

Econ/Stat 123, Section 80, Fall 2007
Introduction to Econometrics
The George Washington University
Columbian College of Arts and Sciences

Class Schedule: Mondays and Fridays
11:10 am – 12:25 pm

Location: 1957 E St. Room 111

Professor: Tara M. Sinclair

Teaching Assistant: Gabriela Aparicio

Office: Hall of Government
Room 314

TA Office: Hall of Government
TBA

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays
2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
and by appointment.

TA Office Hours: TBA
email gabriela@gwu.edu

How to Contact Professor Sinclair: You can reach me most easily by e-mail. My e-mail address is tsinc@gwu.edu. My office phone number is 202-994-7988. If you try to reach me by phone, but do not reach me, please send me an email message rather than leave a voicemail. I check my email much more frequently than my voicemail.

Required Text: Introduction to Econometrics, Second Edition by J. Stock and M. Watson. We will also use the textbook's companion website at http://www.aw-bc.com/stock_watson.

Course Web Site: I will regularly use the Blackboard site for the course. Please check there for handouts, announcements, and for updated grades.

Prerequisites: Math 31 and Stat 112 (Fall and Spring). This course assumes that you are comfortable with this material. If it has been a while since you have taken these courses, you will have to spend extra time outside of class reviewing this material. Please see me if you would like to discuss resources for review. A good place to start is with one of the Schaum's outlines. They have study guides for Probability and Statistics, Calculus, and Econometrics.

Course Description: Construction and testing of economic models regression theory, parameter estimation, and statistical techniques applicable to economic models.

Attendance: Lecture attendance is very important in this course. There will be frequent in-class quizzes that you will be unable to make up if missed. It is also important to arrive to class on-time. It is very disruptive to come to class late, and I will not review material (including quizzes) covered earlier in the class for late-arrivers. **Plan to attend class and to be on-time.** If you must miss class, please get notes from a classmate and check Blackboard for any handouts or announcements.

Exams and quizzes will be based both on lectures and on the textbook. Success in this course requires that you keep up with your understanding of the material covered in lectures as well as material covered in the textbook.

This course requires significant preparation outside of class as well as regular class attendance. If you cannot devote a considerable amount of time to this course this semester, I strongly recommend you take it at a later time.

Grading Procedures: There will be two examinations during the semester: a midterm and a final. The final exam will be cumulative and will be held at the date and time determined by the university. There will also be regular in-class quizzes (typically on Mondays covering the material from the previous week). There will also be a significant course project using the econometrics tools we will learn in class.

Finally, there will also be weekly homework assignments due, in general, each Friday. An answer key will be posted on Blackboard after the class when each assignment is due. It is the student's responsibility to review the answer key carefully and ask questions about any answer not fully understood.

To be fair to all of the students in the class, I must insist that the following exam policies be followed. There will in general be no make-up exams or quizzes. For extreme cases, I may allow a student to receive a grade based on his or her other work if it is absolutely necessary for him or her to miss an exam or a homework assignment. Anyone who must miss an exam should notify me as soon as possible, but at least one week before the scheduled exam time. The only exceptions to this rule will be a verified, serious illness or serious family emergency. Even in this case, students should notify me of the illness *prior to the exam*. In this case a voicemail or email will be accepted as prior notification.

I cannot postpone exams or quizzes because of deadlines or exam dates in other courses. Such actions would not be fair to other students in the class who likely also face pressure from work in other classes but take the exams or quizzes at the scheduled time anyway. The only exception is for a student who has three or more final exams scheduled on the same day. In that case, the student may request to reschedule the final exam to a mutually-agreeable time.

Following university policy, if there is a religious holiday that you wish to observe and will miss a class meeting, please let me know within the first week of the semester. If you do so and there is a quiz or exam on that day, we will arrange for a make-up at a mutually-convenient time.

The exams and quizzes may consist of multiple choice, short essay questions, and/or problems. The exams and quizzes will be graded very carefully and I rarely change the original grades. If you believe that a grading mistake has been made on an exam, however, you may submit a re-grade request to me within one week of the time the exam is returned.

Unless you are explicitly told otherwise, the exams and quizzes are closed book, meaning that you may not consult the text, your notes or any other material, nor may you communicate with each other while taking the tests. Calculators, provided no formulas or notes have been saved in memory, may be used.

You may work in groups for the homework assignments. You may choose to turn in one homework for the group or individual homework assignments. If you turn in a single homework for the group, it is your responsibility to make sure that your name is on the assignment to get credit. If you choose to work with others on the homework, make sure you understand how you arrived at each answer. The homework is designed to prepare you for the exams, quizzes, and individual projects, so you need to completely understand the answers to the assignments.

Coursework Weights and Grading Scale:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Scale</u>
Midterm Exam	25%	93 – 100% = A
Final Exam	25%	90 – 92% = A-
Homework (total)	20%	87 – 89% = B+
Quizzes (total)	10%	83 – 86% = B
Project	20%	80 – 82% = B-
		77 – 79% = C+
		73 – 76% = C
		70 – 72% = C-
		67 – 69% = D+
		63 – 66% = D
		60 – 62% = D-
		< 60% = F

Code of Academic Integrity: All graded work must be completed in accordance with The George Washington University Code of Academic Integrity. If you have any questions about the code or concerns about how to properly follow it for our class, please do not hesitate to ask.

Disability Support Services: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: <http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>.

Tentative Course Outline: Subject To Modification¹

Date	Assignment	Topic	Readings
Friday, September 7 th		Introduction to the course	Stock and Watson (SW) Chapter 1
Monday, September 10 th		Intro to Eviews	Eviews tutorial (Blackboard)
Friday, September 14 th	HW1 Due (Ch. 1)	Review of Probability & Statistics	SW Chapters 2 & 3
Monday, September 17 th	Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-3)	Linear Regression with One Regressor	SW Chapter 4
Friday, September 21 st	HW2 Due (Ch. 2-3)	Linear Regression with One Regressor (Continued) Taught by TA Note: No office hours today.	SW Chapter 4
Monday, September 24 th	Quiz 2 (ch. 4)	Single Regressor: Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals	SW Chapter 5
Friday, September 28 th	HW3 Due (ch. 4)	Hypothesis Tests and Confidence Intervals (Continued)	SW Chapter 5
Monday, October 1 st	Quiz 3 (ch. 5)	Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors Note: No office hours today.	SW Chapter 6
Friday, October 5 th	HW4 Due (ch. 5)	Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors(Continued)	SW Chapter 6
Monday, October 8 th	Quiz 4 (ch. 6)	Multiple Regressors: H-Tests and Confidence Intervals	SW Chapter 7
Friday, October 12 th	HW5 Due (ch. 6)	Multiple Regressors: H-Tests and Confidence Intervals (Continued) Taught by TA Note: No office hours today.	SW Chapter 7
Monday, October 15 th	Quiz 5 (ch. 7)	Nonlinear regression functions	SW Chapter 8
Friday, October 19 th	HW6 Due (ch. 7)	Nonlinear regression functions (continued)	SW Chapter 8
Monday, October 22 nd	Quiz 6 (ch. 8)	Assessing Studies Based on Multiple Regression	SW Chapter 9

¹Modifications will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for knowing about any changes.

Tentative Course Outline Page 2

Date	Assignment	Topic	Readings
Friday, October 26 th	HW7 Due (ch. 8)	Assessing Studies Based on Multiple Regression (continued)	SW Chapter 9 (continued)
Monday, October 29 th	Quiz 7 (ch. 9)	Midterm Exam Review	SW Chapters 1-9
Friday, November 2 nd	MIDTERM EXAM		
Monday, November 5 th	None	Discussion of Project	Handouts
Friday, November 9 th	HW8 (Ch. 9)	Panel Data	SW Chapter 10
Monday, November 12 th	None	Panel Data (Continued)	SW Chapter 10
Friday, November 16 th	None	Panel Data in Eviews	Handouts
Monday, November 19 th	Quiz 8 (ch. 10)	Overview of Instrumental Variables	SW Chapter 12
Friday, November 23 rd	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Monday, November 26 th	HW. 9 (Ch. 10) Quiz 9 (ch. 12)	Regression with a Binary Dependent Variable	SW Chapter 11
Friday, November 30 th	Project Proposal Due	Regression with a Binary Dependent Variable (cont.)	SW Chapter 11
Monday, December 3 rd	Quiz 10 (ch. 11)	Introduction to Time Series Regression and Forecasting	SW Chapter 14
Friday, December 7 th	HW 10 (Ch. 11)	Introduction to Time Series Regression and Forecasting (continued)	SW Chapter 14
Monday, December 10 th	Quiz 11 (ch. 14)	Final Exam Review	SW Ch. 1-12 and 14
Friday December 14 th	PROJECT DUE		
TBA		FINAL EXAM	Cumulative: Focus study on notes and homework assignments