Econ 490: Introductory Econometrics
Summer 2006 Session II
Syllabus

Course Objective: We will learn how to analyze economic data using basic econometrics techniques.

Class Schedule: MTWRF 09:35A - 10:50A 073 Willard (No class on July 4, 2006)
Instructor: Li Wang (Email: luw119@psu.edu)
Office Hours: 408 Kern Bldg
Mon: 11:15am-12:15pm; Wed: 8:15am-9:15am; Fri: 11:15am-12:15pm

Course Webpage: http://www.personal.psu.edu/users/l/u/luw119/econ490.htm
For easy access, go to www.econ.psu.edu, then to “class webpage”, and finally to econ490.

Prerequisites: Math 110 and Econ 390 or similar levels of math or statistical courses.


Homework Assignments: There will be weekly problem sets and students are encouraged to work in groups.

Quizzes: There will be a pre-announced close-book quiz based on the previous homework after its answer keys are posted. The goal is to urge students to digest the homework assignment and get a timely review.

Project: The ultimate goal of econometrics is to analyze real-world economic data, so students are expected to be able to carry out a data analysis project. To have adequate time for the project, students are expected to start early, and should turn in a project proposal beforehand, which includes data description and a project outline. Students can work in groups for the project, but only a maximum of two persons are allowed in one group, and group members will get the same score unless they declare that their weights of contribution to the project are different.

Important Dates:
Midterm 1: July 17 (Monday)
Midterm 2: July 31 (Monday)
Class late drop deadline: August 1st (Tuesday)
Project proposal due date: August 3rd (Thursday)
Project due date: 2pm, August 12 (Saturday)
No final exam

Schedule for homework submission and quizzes: (quizzes based on preceding homework)

| Homework 1 | July 5 (Wed) | Quiz 1 | July 7 (Fri) |
| Homework 2 | July 12 (Wed) | Quiz 2 | July 14 (Fri) |
| Homework 3 | July 19 (Wed) | Quiz 3 | July 21 (Fri) |
| Homework 4 | July 26 (Wed) | Quiz 4 | July 28 (Fri) |
| Homework 5 | August 2 (Wed) | Quiz 5 | August 4 (Fri) |
| Homework 6 | August 7 (Mon) | Quiz 6 | August 9 (Wed) |
**Makeup Policy:** No homework can be turned in late nor any makeup quiz or exam unless you have made specific arrangements with the instructor BEFOREHAND. Please make sure that you check this webpage to understand what valid excuses are. [http://www.econ.psu.edu/Undergraduate_Program/undergrad_page.htm](http://www.econ.psu.edu/Undergraduate_Program/undergrad_page.htm)

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>Quiz # 5-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>C</td>
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**Course Outline (tentative):**

1. Nature of Econometrics and Economic Data  
   Wooldridge: Chapter 1
2. Review of math and statistics:  
   Wooldridge: Appendix A, B, C
3. Simple Linear Regression Model:  
   Wooldridge: Chapter 2
4. Multiple Linear Regression Model: Estimation and inference  
   Wooldridge: Chapters 3-4
5. Further Issues in Regression  
   Wooldridge: Chapters 6, 8 and 9
6. Carrying out an empirical Project  
   Wooldridge: Chapter 19
7. Dealing with Binary Variables:  
   Wooldridge: Chapter 7

**Academic Integrity:** (Excerpt from the Guidelines for the Department of Economics Undergraduate Program Home Page, [http://www.econ.psu.edu/Undergraduate_Program/undergrad_page.htm](http://www.econ.psu.edu/Undergraduate_Program/undergrad_page.htm))

All course work by students is to be done on an individual basis unless an instructor clearly states that an alternative is acceptable. Any reference materials used in the preparation of any assignment must be explicitly cited. In an examination setting, unless the instructor gives explicit prior instructions to the contrary, whether the examination is in-class or take-home, violations of academic integrity shall consist of any attempt to receive assistance from written or printed aids, or from any person or papers or electronic devices, or of any attempt to give assistance, whether the one so doing has completed his or her own work or not. Other violations include, but are not limited to, any attempt to gain an unfair advantage in regard to an examination, such as tampering with a graded exam or claiming another’s work to be one’s own. Violations shall also consist of obtaining or attempting to obtain, previous to any examinations, copies of the examination papers or the questions to appear thereon, or to obtain any illegal knowledge of these questions. Lying to the instructor or purposely misleading any Penn State administrator shall also constitute a violation of academic integrity.
In cases of a violation of academic integrity it is the policy of the Department of Economics to impose the most severe penalties that are consistent with University guidelines.

Disability Access Statement:
The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in this program and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.