INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS
ECON 419
Section 01
Tuesday and Thursday 0800-0915
Synchronously Online
Subject to Change
8.13.2020

Prof. Frank Hefner
Office: Beatty 425
Fall 2020
Phone: 843-953-8111
Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays
(via Zoom) and by appointment via Zoom
or face-to-face (if it is safe and practical to do so)

The course will be conducted synchronously online. Meetings in the computer lab or a
class room may be scheduled when it is safe and practical to do so.

ECON 419: Introduction to Econometrics (3) An introduction to the use of economic
theory, statistical analysis, and mathematical model building to explain economic
relationships.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 200, ECON 201, 6 credit hours of 300-or 400-level ECON
courses, MATH 104 or 250, Math 105 or 120; MATH 350 or DSCI 232; or permission of
the instructor.

TEXTS:
Introduction to Econometrics by Stock and Watson (4th edition)
  • James H. Stock
  • Mark W. Watson
Students are required to have access to the MyLab Economics platform through which
the Homework problem sets and video assignments will be administered. We are using
the LMSintegrate version of MyLab Economics; thus, you should register and access the
platform via Oaks. You can purchase the eText and Access at Pearson:

https://www.pearson.com/store/p/introduction-to-econometrics-student-value-
edition/P100002439080/9780134543826

MyLab Economics with Pearson eText -- Instant Access -- for Introduction to
Econometrics
Includes:
  • MyLab
  • Instant Access: $99.99

Any issues accessing MyLab need to addressed to Pearson.
E-views ($49.95) This package will be used for advanced econometric testing and may be available through the college. You can purchase the software:


The course will be administered through OAKS, the College of Charleston’s online learning management system. You should check OAKS every day.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES: You must have access to a computer with reliable Internet connection at least once a day. You are also expected to have a working knowledge of OAKS and feel comfortable with computer technology such as downloading/uploading files, creating PDF files, and scanning your handwritten work. This implies that you have access to resources that allow you to create PDF files and scan your work. You will also need access to Word, Excel (with the data analysis package), and Eviews, which can be purchased at the web site below. Lectures will be conducted using Zoom. Virtual office appointments will also be conducted using Zoom.

Technical Support Information

☑ Student Computing Services at Library (https://blogs.cofc.edu/sits/)
☑ OAKS tutorials (http://blogs.cofc.edu/oaks/students/tutorials/)
☑ Tutoring at Center for Student Learning (https://csl.cofc.edu/)
☑ eClass Help or other support resources (https://academicaffairs.cofc.edu/distance-education/)

If you have technical problems, please contact the Student Computing Support Desk at 843.953.5457 or by email studentcomputingsupport@cofc.edu. Check for computing downloads and tutorials at https://blogs.cofc.edu/sits/. Resolve problems promptly. Computer failure/unavailability does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments by the due date.

EXCEL COMPETENCY:

The following resources are available for an EXCEL introduction. The three practice exams in Certiport (GMetrix) are part of your homework grade.

Introduction to Excel:
https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/excel-for-windows-training-9bc05390-e94c-46af-a5b3-d7c22f6990bb?wt.mc_id=otc_home&ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us

Introduction to Analysis ToolPak:
LEARNING GOAL:

Econometrics is a set of tools used to estimate and test economic relationships. The methods taught in this course are applicable in business (accounting, finance, marketing, and management) and in many other social science disciplines. The aim of this course is to provide the students with an econometric toolkit to engage in applied analysis. The hope is that you will gain an overview of econometrics and develop some “intuition” about how economic models work. The emphasis of this course will be on understanding the tools of econometrics and applying them in practice, with particular emphasis on practice. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to use a statistical/econometric computer package to estimate an econometric model and be able to report the results in a non-technical and literate manner.

"An economically trained person is likely to spend most of his or her working life writing papers, reports, memoranda, proposals, columns, and letters. Economics depends more on writing ... than on the mathematics and statistics usually touted as the tools of the trade."

Science Education Resource Center (SERC) at Carleton College (http://serc.carleton.edu/sp/index.html)

Note: Econometrics is not a spectator sport. One must practice econometrics to understand econometrics.

GRADING AND EXAMS:

Midterm I (October 1) 100
Midterm II (November 24) 100
Homework and Quizzes 100
Project (December 8) 100
Final Exam (December 8: 1030-1230) 100

Certiport counts as 10% of homework grade
Certiport Practice Exam 1 (Sept. 11)
Certiport Practice Exam 2 (Sep. 25)
Certiport Practice Exam 3 (Oct. 9)

(The assignment is due even if you have Certiport certification)

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 - 100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 - 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are not curved.

Note: The midterm grade required by the College is not part of the grading formula.

Note on Final Date and Time: The Office of the Registrar publishes the official date and time.
You should plan to spend approximately 6 hours studying and/or completing assignments per week for this course. (2 hours for every hour of instruction.)

Grade Appeals Process:
Do not approach me with grade questions during class, or in the few minutes before or after class. These discussions should take place in person (face to face via zoom). This communication must occur within 5 business days after receiving your grade. Keep track of your grades. I return all assignments.

E-MAIL: I attempt to respond to e-mail messages during normal business hours (Monday- Friday 8-5). Put the course number in the subject line with the topic: ECON 419 Question, for example. You should schedule appointments with me via e-mail. I will not respond to requests for grades. Assignments are not accepted by e-mail.

Email etiquette is important, please keep the following guidelines in mind when writing your email:
  a) Use business-like writing style (e.g., Dear Prof. Hefner, Sincerely, etc.)
  b) Be concise and to the point.
  c) Use an email alias so the recipient sees your full name, or your full name with @g.cofc.edu, in his/her email inbox.
  d) Fill in the subject line with a meaningful topic (e.g., Trouble with Homework #2).
  e) Use a clear signature block with your full name, telephone number and return email address.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All students are expected to adhere to the College Honor Code. This includes plagiarism. In addition to penalties that may be imposed on you by the honor board of the College of Charleston; in the case of plagiarism you will receive a grade of zero for the written component of the semester grade. In the case of other violations of academic integrity you will receive an F for the semester. Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at
http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/

ATTENDANCE and ASSIGNMENTS: You are expected to attend class. Students who miss class regularly typically do not pass this course. Late assignments are not accepted and will result in a grade of zero. Missed papers and exams may be completed with an approved absence from the professor. You are responsible for all material covered in class. A missed quiz or exam without an excused absence counts as a zero. Assignments are due at the beginning of class (or earlier), unless otherwise specified.

Computer failure/unavailability may not be acceptable excuse for not completing the assignments by the due date. Remember Murphy’s Law. You can always submit your work early. Assignments are to be submitted via dropbox on OAKS. Only the following file types are acceptable: .doc .xls .pdf
**CLASS DECORUM**: Normal classroom behavior is expected. Turn off cell phones and beepers before class starts. This means no texting during class time. Cell phone should not be visible. Online etiquette still requires classroom decorum as would be expected in face to face classes. Information on zoom etiquette can be found here: [https://www.pennlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/zoom-meeting-etiquette-15-tips-and-best-practices-for-online-video-conference-meetings.html](https://www.pennlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/zoom-meeting-etiquette-15-tips-and-best-practices-for-online-video-conference-meetings.html).

**GENERAL INFORMATION**: Course policies may be changed during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class. You are responsible for all material covered in class. Lectures may or may not follow the text. Additional reading material may be assigned during the class. You will be tested on assigned reading and lecture material. Computer assignments will consist of applied econometric work. Students are encouraged to work together on the empirical assignments. However, all students must write up their answers independently of each other.

**GENERAL CONTENT:**
Review of Descriptive Statistics
Probability Distributions
Statistical Inference: Estimation
Hypothesis Testing
Simple Regression
Multiple Regression
Further Techniques in Regression Analysis
  - Dummy Variables
  - Binary Choice
  - Functional Forms
  - Distributed lag models
  - Forecasting
Problems in Regression Analysis
  - Multicollinearity
  - Heteroscedasticity
  - Autocorrelation
  - Errors in Variables
Time-Series (if time permits)
  - ARIMA
  - Nonstationary series
  - Testing for Unit Root

**NOTE**: I reserve the right to add or subtract topics as the course develops.

**TERM PAPERS**: Details will be covered in class.

*Note: The syllabus may be modified as events warrant.*
Generic Syllabus Material 2020: ECON 419

Institutional Syllabus Statement Regarding the Fall 2020 Semester

The College of Charleston is committed to promoting the health and safety of our campus community. To that end, all faculty and students must abide by public health guidelines that include practicing social distancing in the classroom and elsewhere on campus, following signage indicating the entrance, exit, and traffic flow in and around campus buildings, wearing a mask or cloth face covering while in the presence of others, washing or sanitizing hands frequently, sanitizing individual and shared learning and work spaces, and staying home when sick. These practices are mandatory. Students will not be allowed to attend class without an appropriate face covering or when showing symptoms of illness.

Due to social distancing requirements, the number of students allowed in the classroom at one time is significantly reduced. As a result, most in-person courses will include a variety of online and technology enhanced components to ensure continuity of learning for each student throughout the semester. These strategies will vary by course section and students are advised to read each syllabus carefully. Faculty have planned each course to enable all students, whether they are in the classroom or working remotely, to be fully engaged in the learning experience. Before the drop/add deadline, students should decide whether the course plan on the syllabus matches their own circumstance. All faculty will use OAKS to facilitate student access to the course syllabus, course materials, and the gradebook. The College of Charleston’s standard grading system is in effect.

There is a possibility that the semester will be disrupted by weather or the pandemic. Every course syllabus will include a plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning in the event in-person classes must be suspended. Regardless of the method of instruction, all courses will move online for one week after Thanksgiving. Final exams will be administered online. Therefore, all students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

The College anticipates that some members of the community will fall ill or test positive for the coronavirus, and then be required to quarantine thereby missing class, assignments, and assessments. Faculty are expected to provide reasonable accommodations as determined by the content, level, and expectations of their courses for students who become ill or indicate a need to isolate themselves. To the extent possible, arrangements will be made for students with COVID-19 related absences to continue in the class. Faculty are encouraged to make explicit in their syllabus what sorts of accommodations students can expect with respect to missed course meetings, assignments, and assessments. However, students should be aware that extended absences for any reason cannot be accommodated in every course. Missed assignments and assessments may result in poor or failing grades. If a student is absent from class for an extended period, a withdrawal (W) before the deadline should be strongly considered.
In all cases, assigning course grades is the responsibility of the instructor consistent with the grading policy published on the syllabus.

1. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON HONOR CODE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that, when identified, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to a misunderstanding will handled by the instructor. A written intervention designed to help prevent the student from repeating the error will be given to the student. The intervention, submitted by form and signed both by the instructor and the student, will be forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive a XF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This grade will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the X to be expunged. The student may also be placed on disciplinary probation, suspended (temporary removal) or expelled (permanent removal) from the College by the Honor Board.

Students should be aware that unauthorized collaboration--working together without permission-- is a form of cheating. Unless the instructor specifies that students can work together on an assignment, quiz and/or test, no collaboration during the completion of the assignment is permitted. Other forms of cheating include possessing or using an unauthorized study aid (which could include accessing information via a cell phone or computer), copying from others’ exams, fabricating data, and giving unauthorized assistance.

Research conducted and/or papers written for other classes cannot be used in whole or in part for any assignment in this class without obtaining prior permission from the instructor.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/

IMPACT ON GRADE IN THIS COURSE: All students are expected to adhere to the College Honor Code. This includes plagiarism. In addition to penalties that may be imposed on you by the honor board of the College of Charleston; in the case of plagiarism you will receive a grade of zero for the written component of the semester
grade. In the case of other violations of academic integrity you will receive an F for the semester.

2. SPECIAL NEEDS: http://disabilityservices.cofc.edu/

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before an accommodation is needed.

If there is a student in the class who has a documented disability and has been approved to receive accommodations through the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, please come and discuss this with me during my office hours.

If you have any concerns about the class, please contact me.

3. CENTER FOR STUDENT LEARNING

I encourage you to utilize the Center for Student Learning’s (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and course content. They offer tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, study skills appointments, and workshops. Students of all abilities have become more successful using these programs throughout their academic career and they are available to you at no additional cost. CSL also provides a writing lab where trained writing consultants can help with writing for all courses; they offer one-to-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information regarding these services please visit the CSL website at https://csl.cofc.edu/

4. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS LEARNING GOALS:

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Students will demonstrate the ability, via both written and spoken word, to effectively present, critique, and defend ideas in a cogent, persuasive manner.

QUANTITATIVE FLUENCY: Students will demonstrate competency in logical reasoning and data analysis skills.

GLOBAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY: Students will be able to identify and define social, ethical, environmental and economic challenges at local, national and international levels. Students will also be able to integrate knowledge and skills in addressing these issues.

INTELLECTUAL INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY: Students will be able to demonstrate their resourcefulness and originality in addressing extemporaneous problems.
SYNTHESIS: Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines incorporating learning from both classroom and non-classroom settings in the completion of complex and comprehensive tasks.

This course emphasizes **quantitative fluency**.

The course meets the following School of Business learning goals: Communication Skills (term paper); quantitative fluency (econometrics); intellectual innovation and creativity (creative data analysis); and synthesis (term paper)

5. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS LEARNING GOALS:

**Understanding Major Economic Problems**
Students demonstrate an understanding of the major economic problems facing society and the policy alternatives which may be utilized to contend with these problems. Supports Strategic Initiative 1: Enhance the undergraduate academic core.

**Quantitative Fluency**
Students demonstrate the ability to draw insights about economic behavior from the application of mathematical tools. Supports Strategic Initiative 1: Enhance the undergraduate academic core.

**Synthesis**
Students demonstrate the ability to access existing knowledge by retrieving, assembling, and organizing information on particular topics and issues in economics. Supports Strategic Initiative 1: Enhance the undergraduate academic core.

**Communication Skills**
Students demonstrate the ability to clearly communicate the analysis of an economic issue. Supports Strategic Initiative 1: Enhance the undergraduate academic core.

This course attempts to meet all of the Departmental learning goals. Specifically, **implementation and demonstration** of achievement will be through completions of examinations, problems, and the term paper.

6. OAKS

OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

7. RECORDING OF CLASSES (via ZOOM)

Class sessions will be recorded via both voice and video recording. By attending and remaining in this class, the student consents to being recorded. Recorded class sessions
are for instructional use only and may not be shared with anyone who is not enrolled in the class.

8. INCLEMENT WEATHER, PANDEMIC OR SUBSTANTIAL INTERRUPTION OF INSTRUCTION

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.