

ECON 488: ECONOMETRICS

FALL 2022

Jared Barton
2137 Sage Hall
Office Hours: MTW 2:00pm-3:00pm
jared.barton@csuci.edu
805-437-1640

Course Information: Mondays 9:00am-11:50am, Bell Tower 1422
Tuesdays 9:00am-10:50am, Ojai Hall 1952

Textbook: We are going to use Jeffrey Wooldridge's *Introductory Econometrics* (5th edition) alongside Heiss and Bruner's *Using Python for Introductory Econometrics*. I have put the PDF of each of these in our Canvas.

Course Description: The course places an emphasis on the collection and manipulation of economic data, and the application of econometric methods to business and resource management issues. Development of testable hypotheses, applications of estimation techniques and interpretation of regression results. Use of econometric software applications to estimate statistical relations.

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand the core concepts of probability theory that underlie applied statistical analysis
2. Describe and apply the scientific method to economic behavior
3. Conduct your own, independent analysis of a dataset using the latest statistical software
4. Present the findings of your own econometric analysis in the form of both a research paper and an oral presentation to your classmates
5. Evaluate the analysis performed by other researchers, and highlight potential shortcomings with the underlying statistical model, as well as identify potential data sources that could possibly be used to supplement and improve the model

Translation: This is why econ majors make the big bucks, gang. You want to be useful to the world? You learn econometrics.

Grades: The grades you earn will reflect the degree to which you meet the course learning objectives. I use the +/- system for grades; while people who get an 89 and a 91 are substantially similar in terms of the learning they have accomplished, people who get an 89 and an 81 are not. I round to the nearest tenth of a percentage point on the final grade, and use "top 3/bottom 3" for pluses and minuses. Curves are great for car ads, but not for this class. Do not expect one.

Here are how your grade will be determined in this class:

Assignments	250 points
Midterm	250 points
Final Exam	250 points
Project	250 points

Assignments. Assignments will be a combination of practice problems about the lecture or exercises in Python. We will hew closely to the book for these (there are a ton at the end of every chapter). These are credit/no credit, so please just do them, okay?

Exams. There will be two exams—a midterm and a final. They will test your understanding of the theoretical material and also your ability to interpret regression output. The final will be cumulative by necessity (you cannot know the latter material without mastering the initial stuff).

Project. While assignments are great for practice and exams tell me whether you can do a thing today without your notes, what really matters is being able to apply these skills. Thus, there will be a project wherein you make some hypotheses, find a data set with which to test the hypotheses, perform regression analysis, and interpret your results. I will give you more details on this project throughout the semester.

Attendance: Attendance is essentially mandatory. Exams take place during class. Without getting your absence excused, you will get a zero on missed tests and in-class assignments. Excuses are valid for health, university events, work, or the death of family. I may require additional confirmation for the death of family and for work.¹ That said, do not drag yourself to class sick—just email me once you realize you're sick!

Make-Up Exams: There are two exams. The dates listed with the schedule of topics are subject to change. You are responsible for any changes in the schedule announced in class. In the case of a missed exam, the next exam score will replace your missed score *provided your absence was excused*. Unexcused absences from exams result in a grade of zero. Regardless of the reason for missing an exam, no make-up will be given. In the event that you anticipate a conflict associated with a university-sponsored event, contact me in the first two weeks of class to discuss arranging an alternative time near an exam to take it.

Grade appeals: If you believe that I misgraded your exam, quiz, or assignment, you may submit a written appeal no later than 2 classes after I return the exam or quiz. Attach the relevant exam or quiz along with a written explanation of the appeal. I will respond in writing. If there is still a disagreement, we can meet during my office hours.

Office Hours: Office hours belong to you, not to me. Please use them! They tend to get busy near exams and project deadlines, but otherwise tend not to be crowded. If they are crowded, we'll take over a nearby meeting room.

How to reach me: I will email you at your CSUCI email account; please check it regularly. Emailing me at my CSUCI email address is an effective way to reach me. Calling also works—I set up call forwarding on my office phone to my mobile. If you call and do not reach me, please leave your number in your message—I don't get full caller ID on forwarded calls to my mobile. Sorry.

Canvas: I use Canvas to post everything. Please check Canvas daily.

¹ Many students seem to have an unusually large number of great aunts and uncles to whom they were particularly close, and bosses who are demanding *at the precise moment* that I give exams. Weird, right?

Disability Accommodations: CSU Channel Islands is committed to equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. The mission of Disability Accommodation Services is to assist students with disabilities to realize their academic and personal potential. Students with physical, learning, or other disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Accommodation Services office at (805) 437-8510 for personal assistance and accommodations.

Academic Honesty: Most people don't cheat. If everyone doesn't cheat, then this part of the syllabus was unnecessary. Let's make it unnecessary, okay?

1. Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill that he/she does not possess.
2. Course instructors have the initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty. Instructors who believe that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred are obligated to discuss the matter with the student(s) involved. Instructors should possess reasonable evidence of academic dishonesty. However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), instructors may take whatever action (subject to student appeal) they deem appropriate.
3. Instructors who are convinced by the evidence that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty shall assign an appropriate academic penalty. If the instructors believe that the academic dishonesty reflects on the student's academic performance or the academic integrity in a course, the student's grade should be adversely affected. Suggested guidelines for appropriate actions are: an oral reprimand in cases where there is reasonable doubt that the student knew his/her action constituted academic dishonesty; a failing grade on the particular paper, project or examination where the act of dishonesty was unpremeditated, or where there were significant mitigating circumstances; a failing grade in the course where the dishonesty was premeditated or planned. The instructors will file incident reports with the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs and for Student Affairs or their designees. These reports shall include a description of the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, any relevant documentation, and any recommendations for action that he/she deems appropriate.
4. The Vice President for Student Affairs shall maintain an Academic Dishonesty File of all cases of academic dishonesty with the appropriate documentation.
5. Student may appeal any actions taken on charges of academic dishonesty to the "Academic Appeals Board."
6. The Academic Appeals Board shall consist of faculty and at least one student.
7. Individuals may not participate as members of the Academic Appeals Board if they are participants in an appeal.
8. The decision of the Academic Appeals Board will be forwarded to the President of CSU Channel Islands, whose decision is final.

Course Outline: Normally I have a very detailed plan here. This year, I do not. I have never taught econometrics at CSUCI (or anywhere else) before, and *I am learning Python with you!*

So here's the deal: we are going to proceed through the first nine chapters of Wooldridge and the associated Python chapters. Beyond that, I think we'll probably skip time series and go to section 3 of Wooldridge. We will have a midterm exam around week 8 (i.e., about October 10th). After the first two to three weeks, I'll have a good handle on how quickly we can go, and will likely make a formal outline of the whole class at that point.

I apologize for the lack of structure here, gang. I'm sure it's unsettling for many of you—it is for me! But I neither want to freak you out by suggesting we'll cover too much, nor fail to push you enough by making a cake syllabus for me. Thus the ambiguity; thank you for rolling with it.