Course Syllabus

Econ 211C, Spring 2014

Administrative Information

Main Instructor:	Eric Aldrich
Office Location:	435 Engineering 2
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 8:00 am – 10:00 am
Contact:	ealdrich@ucsc.edu
Lectures:	T/TH 8:00 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.
Location:	137 Soc Sci 2
Course Website:	http://people.ucsc.edu/~ealdrich/Teaching/Econ211C/
Important Dates:	TH 8 May 2014 – Midterm exam (in class)
	T 10 June 2014, Noon - 3:00 pm – Final Exam

Course Description

This course is a foundational time series course for doctoral students in Economics. Lectures will cover the mathematics, notation and theory of time series and homework assignments will be designed to apply the methods learned in lecture to actual data. Computing will be an essential component of the assignments - Matlab and R are recommend software programs.

Course Materials

The textbook for the course is Time Series Analysis by James D. Hamilton. I will also make my lecture notes available on the course website.

Assignments

There will be four assignments, due every second Thursday (with an extra Thursday to account for the midterm): 17 April, 1 May, 22 May and 5 June. Late assignments will not be accepted and extensions will not be granted.

Grading

Assignments: 35%; Mid-Term Exam: 30%; Final Exam: 35%. I will curve grades only at the end of the semester if the distribution is low enough and/or spread out enough. It is important for me to emphasize that curving will never hurt your grade - it will only work to your advantage.

Attendance

Class attendance is not required, but in the case of a borderline grade, if absence was obvious and persistent, it will prevent a student from receiving a higher grade. Attendance is required for both exams – no make-up exams will be administered.

General Outline

Topic	Reading
Stationary ARMA Processes	Hamilton Chapter 3
Forecasting	Hamilton Chapter 4
Maximum Likelihood Estimation	Hamilton Chapter 5
Covariance-Stationary Vector Processes	Hamilton Chapter 10.1-10.3
Vector Autoregressions	Hamilton Chapter 11
Bayesian Analysis	Hamilton Chapter 12
The Kalman Filter	Hamilton Chapter 13
GMM	Hamilton Chapter 14
Unit Roots	Hamilton Chapters 15-17
Cointegration	Hamilton Chapter 19