

Eco 4306: Economic and Business Forecasting

Texas Tech University
Spring 2019

Syllabus

Lectures: MWF 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m., 00226 Holden Hall

Website: ttu.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/execute/launcher?type=Course&id=__58926__1

Instructor: Jan Duras

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Office Hours: T 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Teaching Assistant: Maruf Morshed

Office: 232 Holden Hall

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Office Hours: TR 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Please check emails daily for announcements; when sending an email start subject with **Eco 4306**.

TEXTBOOK

Gonzalez-Rivera, G., [Forecasting for Economics and Business](#), 1st edition. Routledge, 2012

PREREQUISITES

Math 2345 or instructor consent. Familiarity with EViews software package is an advantage but it's not required. We will discuss in class how to use it to build forecasts. Two alternative student versions of EViews software package, one free and one for \$49.95, are available from the developer's [website](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Knowledge of forecasting methods is a highly demanded skill in the modern economy. This course aims to provide an introduction to these methods, and the main goal is to learn how to apply them in practice to univariate and multivariate models in economics, business and finance. We will cover the tools needed to analyze time series data, to build forecasting models, and to critically evaluate competing forecasts. Since the emphasis is on learning how to apply the forecasting methods to data, students should expect to spend a nontrivial amount of time outside of class working on assignments in EViews.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course students will

1. gain familiarity with EViews software package and know how to use it to analyze time series data
2. understand statistical techniques applied to model economic, business and financial time series data
3. be able to independently develop suitable models to forecast economic or financial data
4. be able to evaluate the forecasting performance of various models and choose the most appropriate model among the alternatives

Assessment of learning outcomes will be based on quizzes, homeworks and exams. Quizzes (focused on key concepts) and homeworks (focused on application of forecasting methods in EViews, interpretation, and critical evaluation of results), will be used as tools to periodically monitor students' progress. The most problematic parts will be reviewed and discussed in class to provide feedback.

GRADING

Final grade will be computed by choosing the highest of the following three grading options.

Assignments	30%	30%	30%
Attendance	5%	5%	5%
Horse Idioms	5%	5%	5%
Midterm exam 1	22%	14%	23%
Midterm exam 2	22%	23%	14%
Final exam	21%	28%	28%

Below are the grading cut-off points:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	D	F
92%	90%	88%	82%	80%	78%	70%	60%	below 60%

EXAMS

Midterm Exam 1: Monday, February 25, in class

Midterm Exam 2: Monday, April 8, in class

Final Exam: Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (cumulative exam, covers all material)

ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment has the same weight. All assignments are due in class, before the lecture. Assignments can be submitted up to 7 days late but with a 10% penalty for each day the assignment is late.

Students are encouraged to work in study groups, but each student is responsible for writing up own solution and needs to acknowledge people he/she worked with on the assignment.

HORSE IDIOMS

One horse related idiom will be mentioned during (almost) every lecture, depending on how many you can provide in last lecture with dates when they appeared you can get up to 5%.

ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION

Attendance is mandatory. Participation is valued and you can get up to 2% extra, which can bump up your grade from e.g. from B+ to A-/A, if you are a borderline case and if were active in class discussions. I will not lower your grade if you don't participate or if your comments are off.

Use of electronic devices in the class is not permitted unless instructed otherwise. All devices should be silenced/turned off and put away. Photos or video may not be taken without permission. You should not share any course material those not enrolled in this class this semester, or sites similar to coursehero.com.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a tentative outline for the course - details and timing are subject to change.

Week 1	Introduction Chapter 1
Week 2	Basic Statistics Concepts. Linear Regression Model (OLS) Appendix A and Chapter 2
Week 3	Statistics and Time Series. Tools of the Forecaster. Chapter 3 and 4
Week 4	Moving Average (MA) Processes Chapter 6
Week 5	Autoregressive (AR) Processes Chapter 7
Week 6	Autoregressive Moving Average (ARMA) processes Chapter 7
Week 7	Seasonal Patterns and Seasonal Models (SARIMA) Chapter 7 and 8
Week 8	Evaluating Forecasts Chapter 9
Week 9	Spring Break N/A
Week 10	Deterministic and Stochastic Trends. Unit Root Tests. (ADF, KPSS) Chapter 10
Week 11	System of Equations: Vector Autoregression (VAR) Chapter 11
Week 12	Long Run: Cointegration Chapter 12
Week 13	Short Run: Error Correction Models (ECM) Chapter 12
Week 14	Forecasting Volatility (MA, EWMA) Chapter 13
Week 15	Forecasting Volatility (ARCH, GARCH) Chapter 14
Week 16	Financial Applications of Time-varying Volatility (VaR, ES) Chapter 15

PROCEDURES AND POLICIES

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Texas Tech University Student Handbook can be found at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/>

MAKE-UP EXAMS

Make-up exams are allowed only with a valid, official and acceptable university excuse. Please contact me as early as possible if you realize that you will miss an exam. For more information on make-up exams please visit: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/testing/makeup_exams.php

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who may need special arrangements to complete the course requirements should contact me as soon as possible to request the necessary accommodations. You are required to present any appropriate verification from the Student Disability Services <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/students/sds/>. All requests are confidential.

RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

Religious holy day means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code Section 11.20. Student who intends to observe a religious holy day should inform the instructor in writing prior to the absence. An excused student absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day is not going to be penalized for the absence and will be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. See Texas Tech University Operating Policy 34.19. <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.19.pdf>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any form and will result in disciplinary action. Texas Tech University Code of Student Conduct defines scholastic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, violations of published professional ethics/standards, and any act or attempted act designed to give unfair academic advantage to oneself or another student. See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php> for further discussion of issues related to Academic Integrity; for more information on Code of Student Conduct visit <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/conduct.php>

STUDENT CONDUCT AND CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:

Students are expected to contribute to a calm, productive, and learning environment. Please check this website for information on student classroom behavior issues <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/conduct.php>

COMPLAINTS OR CONCERNS:

Please contact your instructor or TA if you have any complaints/concerns about the course. If your concerns are not resolved after talking with your instructor, you can contact: Professor Klaus Becker, Chair of the Department of Economics, 248 Holden Hall, 806-834-7275, klaus.becker@ttu.edu