

# Welcome to Econ 140!

Econ 140 Fall 2025, Section 1

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Jonathan Old

[Syllabus/OH](#)   [bCourses](#)   [Website](#)   [Feedback form \(Always open\)](#)   [Datahub](#)

# Roadmap

1. Getting Started & Housekeeping
2. Time for your questions
3. Econ 140: The Big Picture
4. Introduction to R

# Getting Started & Housekeeping

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Introduce yourself ...

... with your name, your major, and one interesting and one boring fact about you that you would like us to know!

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- Please speak up!

- Email: [jonathan\\_old@berkeley.edu](mailto:jonathan_old@berkeley.edu)

# Office Hours

- Email: [jonathan\\_old@berkeley.edu](mailto:jonathan_old@berkeley.edu)
- Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am open on Zoom

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- You may go to any other GSI's office hours, see details on the Syllabus



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- Final (12/15): 40% of grade and cumulative
- No attendance requirement, but we highly encourage it!

Your questions

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Any questions?

...Remember – this is a safe space! Every question is useful!

# Econ 140: The Big Picture

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# The Big Picture

Econometrics can help us

- Understand causal relationships
- Critically consume news, research, claims
- Make decisions

in

- Our private lives
- (Economic) Research
- Business
- Public Policy



# The Big Picture

- Econometrics gives us amazing tools to answer economic questions, but also to answer any quantitative question based on data. For example:
  1. Will my outcomes be better if I invest my time into finding summer internships or into my coursework?
  2. What is the effect of tariffs on prices, economic output, and well-being?
  3. Will a firm make more money if it introduces pay-for-performance contracts?
  4. Do minimum wages increase unemployment?

In short: What is the effect of X on Y?

- Difference between econometrics and data science.
  - Causality vs prediction (see here)
  - Economic models

# Introduction to R

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We will code on **Datahub**.