Economic Statistics (Econ 121)

Summer 2020

Most updated syllabus here

Professor:

- Maria Hernandez-de-Benito mh1543@georgetown.edu

- Office hours: Thursdays 2-3pm

Student assistant:

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Lectures:

- Monday-Thursday 3:15pm to 5:15pm

Recitation:

- Wednesday 7-9pm

Prerequisites: You will need at least a passing acquaintance with calculus (e.g., at the level of Math 035) to do well in the course. Some background in economics also helpful.

What are the goals? introduce the theory of probability and statistics, understand why probability and statistics are important tools for economics – both for economic theory and for empirical economics, helping you to think critically about the use of statistics, convince you the subject matter is important, interesting, and can be fun!

Required text: none. I will provide lots of public access online resources. Of course, you may acquire any textbooks you find useful and I will be happy to provide recommendations.

Required software: students may choose to use either STATA or R for their computer assignments. Students may download STATA 16 for free from Georgetown University Software Store. R is a free open source software you may download here. You may download both! STATA is strongly used in economics and other social sciences. R is one of the most widely used upcoming softwares across disciplines and data scientists.

Final course grades will be determined using the following weights:

Problem sets & computer assignments	10%
Individual project	20%
Midterm exam	30%
Final exam	40%

Problem sets & computer assignments will be graded as either 0 (incomplete), 1 (good attempt), or 2 (excellent). Everyone who gets a 1 or 2 on every problem set will get "full credit".

Individual Project: students will pick at the beginning of the course a data source

(2 variables are enough) they are interested in. Each week, students will have to update their project journal given what we learned in class. At the end, they are expected to submit everything they did during the course plus any upgrades they saw fit as they learned more tools.

No makeup exams will be offered. If you need to miss the midterm due to, for example, a medical emergency, you will need to present an "official" excuse from a Dean and/or doctor. In that case, I will simply increase the weight put on the other exam and the individual project. For example, if you miss the midterm (with a legitimate/official excuse), your final exam will count for 55% of your grade and your individual project for 35%.

You have to take the final exam, either at the regularly scheduled time or (with your Dean's permission) on the Conflict date.

Honor Code: Standards of Conduct

Course schedule:

- 4 problem sets due on Mondays

- June 1st-June 12th: Lectures

- June 15th-16th: Review sessions and Q&A

- June 17th: Midterm exam

- June 18th-June 30th: Lectures

- July 1st-2nd: Review sessions and Q&A

- July 2nd: Individual projects due

- July 3rd: Final exam