

---

## ECO 231W Syllabus - Spring 2013

Prof. Josh Kinsler  
joshua.kinsler@rochester.edu

University of Rochester  
Harkness 226

---

### Lectures

Monday & Wednesday, 12:30-1:45PM, 140 Hutch  
Monday & Wednesday, 4:50-6:05PM, 321 Morey  
Recitation Sections: W 2:00, TH 3:25, F 10:00, F 2:00

### Exams

Midterm 1: Friday, February 22nd @ 3 PM, Hubbell Auditorium  
Midterm 2: Friday, April 5th @ 3 PM, Hubbell Auditorium  
Final Exam: Tuesday, May 7th @ 8:30 AM, Location TBD  
**YOU HAVE UNTIL JANUARY 28th TO INFORM ME OF ANY CONFLICTS.**

### Prerequisites

Economics 230 or Statistics 213 or Mathematics 203

### Teaching Assistants

Sulagna Mookerjee, Choonsung Park, David Slichter

**TA Office Hours:** 10-12AM Monday, Harkness 207 & 3:15-4:15PM Friday, Harkness 207

Office hours will be primarily used for assistance with problem sets and term paper questions. Please see one of the TAs for questions regarding the problem sets or Stata. For questions relating to lecture material or other conceptual issues, you should see me on Monday from 9-10:30AM or by appointment in Harkness 226.

### Blackboard

I lecture using overhead slides that will be posted on the course website (my.rochester.edu) the day before each class. Handouts for discussion sections will be posted at the beginning of each week (with solutions posted on Fridays). Problem sets will be posted as they are assigned, so check the website frequently. I will post all documents in pdf format, for which you will need Adobe Acrobat or Adobe reader.

### Required text

James Stock and Mark Watson (2011), "Introduction to Econometrics," 3rd Edition, Addison-Wesley.  
Supplementary online material: [http://www.pearsonhighered.com/stock\\_watson/](http://www.pearsonhighered.com/stock_watson/)  
Students who would like to see alternative treatment of the material might also consult: Jeffrey M. Wooldridge (2003), "Introductory Econometrics" Thomson/South-Western.

### Software

We will be using the program Stata in the discussion sections and for homework assignments. Stata is available on the computers in 114 Harkness.

If you wish, you can purchase your own copy of Intercooled Stata for \$65.00 online at:  
<http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplan.html>

## Course Grades

### 1. Exams: Two Midterm Exams-20% each, Final Exam-25%

- The following are the exam dates, times, and location.
  - **Midterm 1: Friday, February 22nd @ 3pm, Hubbell Aud.**
  - **Midterm 2: Friday, April 5th @ 3pm, Hubbell Aud.**
  - **Final Exam: Tuesday, May 7th @ 8:30 AM**
- These exams are not flexible. If you have a conflict, **YOU HAVE UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 28th TO INFORM ME.**
- Exams will be closed book, but you will not need to memorize a bunch of formulas. For each exam, you will be allowed to bring in your own sheet of notes.
- The best way to prepare for exams is to solve lots of problems (on your own). The homework assignments and section handouts contain good examples of potential exam questions.

### 2. Term Paper: 25%

- There will be a term-paper due at the end of the semester. Please see the term-paper guidelines for further information.

### 3. Problem Sets: 10%

- Over the course of the semester I will assign 8 problem sets which will be posted on the course website. Problem sets should be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Late homework will not be accepted and there will be no extensions.
- You may work in groups to solve the problem sets, and are in fact encouraged to do so.
- You may skip one problem set with no penalty. This is to allow you some flexibility throughout the semester.
- Problem sets will not be graded in detail. The TA's will give either full credit or no credit based on overall quality and effort. However, I strongly suggest you complete the homework assignments and view the solutions with care as they will be very beneficial when preparing for exams.

## Re-grading

We work very hard to make sure that exams are graded accurately and fairly, but mistakes sometimes happen. If you think your exam or problem set should be re-graded, you may submit in writing the detailed reasons why you think this is the case (unless your points have been added up incorrectly, in which case you can just bring the exam to me for an immediate correction). Take into account that if you ask for a re-grade, the entire exam or problem set will be checked again, meaning that you may lose points (since mistakes can happen in both directions). In addition, arguments for additional partial credit will not be considered: you must believe your answer is entirely correct as written. You must submit requests for midterm re-grades within two weeks of the day the exam was returned. For problem sets, you will have one week after the assignment is returned to ask for a re-grade.