

BUEC 333-D100, Summer 2015: Syllabus

Course: Statistical Analysis of Economic Data
Lecture: Wednesday, 14:30-17:30, WMC3520
Labs: TBD.

Instructor: Chris Muris
Office: WMC 3639
Email: Do not email me. Come and talk to me in person.
Office hours: Thursday, 12:30-14:00

This document

This document outlines some basic organization features about this course. **You are expected to regularly check the course website** (<http://www.sfu.ca/~cmuris/buec333/index.html>) for updated information about the course.

What to expect in this course

This course will introduce you to the statistical analysis of economic data: econometrics. We will focus on linear regression, which is by far the most common method for analyzing the relationship between two or more variables. The main things you will learn in this class are how to apply regression methods to economic data and how to interpret the results of econometric analysis. You will also get some experience using statistical software (R), and establish a foundation for further econometric study. Assignments, readings, etc. will be posted on the course website.

Readings

The text for the course is Stock and Watson, "Introductory econometrics" (3rd edition, Updated, 2015). A schedule for the lectures and readings is available from the website. You're expected to do the readings before the accompanying lecture.

Labs

In all weeks following the online posting of the first assignment, there will be a TA in the lab each week (time and date: TBD, course website). Outside these hours, you can use the public computer lab in WMC 2502.

Tutorials

You are expected to have tried to complete the problem sets before going to the tutorials. The tutorials are there for you to ask questions about parts of the problem sets that you found difficult to solve on your own, or to have a TA check your solutions. The job of the TA is to answer individual questions from you, and to check your solutions. Your TAs is **not** going to **review the course material**, or **solve the problem sets**.

Tests

The three tests are closed-book (no book, notes, or graphical calculators are allowed). Although each tests emphasis the material in the weeks since the last test, they are cumulative. On top of **all** the readings, the material includes anything that I have discussed during the lectures, and anything you needed to complete the problem sets.

Hand-in assignments

There will be two graded assignments consisting of both exam-type questions and computer exercises. The assignments will be posted on the course website. You are expected to work independently on the assignments. Cheating of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course.

Rules for missing the deadlines are as follows:

1. Hand it in the same day, but after the time of the deadline: -10% of total number of points
2. Hand it in one day later: -20% of total number of points
3. Hand it in two days later: -30% of total number of points
4. ...

Collaboration and Copying

Although students are encouraged to work together on the understanding and conceptualization of the material (this is, in fact, one of the best ways to learn), direct copying of another student's work is not allowed. If you hand in work that you did not do yourself, I will seek the maximum penalty. At a minimum, I will assign you an **F for this course**. It is fine to use published resources, such as books, journals and the Internet **provided that you supply a reference**.

Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on hand-in assignments ($2 \times 20 = 40\%$, dates: see website), and three tests ($3 \times 20 = 60\%$, dates: see website). Furthermore, to obtain a passing grade for this course, you must score **at least 50% on each test**.

Regrading

If you feel that an assignment, the midterm, or the final was graded with error, or unfairly graded, you can submit a request for a regrading. No additional points will be awarded without such a request. A form for requesting a regrade can be found on the website.

Note that a regrading can result in a **lower grade**, as I will typically regrade all questions.

Illness during midterms, exams, and on assignment deadline dates:

It can happen that you are ill and feel that you cannot write your midterm, your exam, or hand in your assignment. SFU policy states that I have full discretion about accepting your doctor's note or not and that I am the only person who can exempt you from writing the exam.

Therefore, you should know which rules I will enforce. As a **default**, I will award you **0 points**.

However, I will consider giving a repeat or a deadline extension if:

1. General info: <http://students.sfu.ca/health/healthclinics/sicknotes.html>
2. You submit this form: <http://www.sfu.ca/~cmuris/healthcareproviderstatement.pdf>
3. You signed it, so that I am allowed to contact your health care provider (I will!)
4. The doctor saw you on or before the date of the exam
5. You submit the form before the end of the day after the exam
6. You submit it in person (to Econ secretary if I am not available) or electronically

Schedule

See the course webpage for an up-to-date version of the schedule.