Econ 570: Applied Econometrics

Instructor: Stephen Lich-Tyler
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Website: http://www.unc.edu/~swlt/econ570.html
Office hours: Gardner 303, Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 (or appointment)
Meeting times: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11:00-11:50
Meeting place: Gardner Hall, Room 308
          Intercooled Stata (any recent version)
          Lich-Tyler: “Study Guide for Econometrics” (on website)
Prerequisite: Economic Statistics (Econ 400/70; grade of B+ or better)

This course teaches advanced econometric techniques for empirical analysis. At the end, you should have the skills to analyze data in order to answer economic questions for a government agency, consulting firm, or similar activity. The emphasis is practical, but many of the lectures will be theory and technique. You must understand these in order to know why a particular estimator is appropriate in some situations, but inappropriate in others.

Attendance & announcements: Regular attendance is strongly encouraged, but I don’t monitor attendance formally. Regardless of whether you attend, I expect that you will submit assignments on time and that you know any announcements made in class. Announcements (about assignments, chances to the schedule, or such) will be written on the board at the start of lecture, or I will email the class. The course website contains assignments, old exams, and supplemental handouts.

Rescheduled lectures: The usual calendar is not conducive to doing an empirical project. We will not have lectures after April 13th; the last two weeks are for your research only. Instead, these lectures will be rescheduled earlier in the evening earlier in the semester. Each rescheduled lecture will be repeated twice. You will need to attend March 19th or 20th, and March 26th or March 27th, from 6-8pm (tentatively).

Assignments: You must turn these in during class on the due date, or else you should find someone to turn them in for you. I recommend that you submit them neatly, in order, and with multiple pages attached.

Grading: Your grade will be based on homeworks, two exams, and a paper:

- Exam 1 (midterm; Wed., Feb. 29) 25%
- Problem sets 10%
- Empirical project (Wed., Apr. 25) 35%
- Exam 2 (Fri., Apr. 27th, 12-2) 30%

This weighted average will determine overall grades, with a (nonlinear) curve. There will be no make-up exams; if you miss one for a legitimate reason, your overall grade will depend on the other assignments. The dates of the exams are almost certain.

Writing component: For the empirical project, you are required to use data to answer some economic question, using econometric techniques from this course. You must write a paper (approximately 7-10 pages) to explain: the question, the data, the estimation technique, and the results. I will give you more information later in the course.

Etiquette: From the start of the lecture until its end, please avoid doing anything that would distract your classmates or the lecturer. Unless instructed otherwise, please refrain from using electronic devices during lectures and exams. (This includes phones, calculators, computers, and MP3 players.) Office hours and email are the best ways to contact me. (If you do not receive a prompt email response, please be persistent.) The times immediately before or after class are generally not good for questions, except for quick thoughtless ones.

Academic integrity: Copying any assignment or exam from an undocumented source constitutes an honor violation.