SYLLABUS

Economics 140:   **Quantitative Economic Analysis**

Sacramento State University, Department of Economics
Spring 2015
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!Please read this information carefully. It describes important course policies and deadlines, and I will assume that you are familiar with them!

Lectures: Tu/Th 1:30 - 2:45pm, Amador Hall 250, Mariposa Hall 1011 (lab)

Office hours: Tu   3:00 - 4:00pm, Tahoe Hall 3011
                   Th   11:00 - 12:00noon, Tahoe Hall 3011
                   Please feel free to schedule appointments with me at other times as well. The best way to meet me outside of office hours is to email me and schedule a time. If you have any problems with this course, or with any other matters that may affect your work in this course, please contact me as soon as possible and we can try to work out a solution.

Textbook: **Analysis of Economic Data, Gary Koop, 4th Edition;**

                  Additional readings will be posted on the SacCT (http://www.csus.edu/sacct) class website.

Course overview:
One of the best ways to improve your economic intuition is conducting empirical research. We will discuss the basics of conducting quantitative economic analyses and apply the learned concepts and methods of data analysis and research.
3 units.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this semester you will have a basic understanding of how to:
1. produce,
2. read,
3. interpret,
4. draw conclusions from, and
5. critically evaluate summary statistics, graphs, and regression results.

Prerequisites:
Econ 1A, Econ 1B, Stat 1

Grades:
Your final numerical score will be calculated based on your performance on **two exams, a final group paper, participation in class, and homework assignments.** Numerical scores will not be converted to letter grades until the very end of the semester and specific letter grades will not be assigned to individual homework assignments or exams. I will provide feedback on your performance over the course of the semester, however. The final score breakdown is as follows and approximate grade distribution:

Exams	20% each	(200 points)
Group project (total)	25%	(125 points)
Group project proposal	*2%*	*(10 points)*
Group project presentation	*2%*	*(10 points)*
Final paper	*20%*	*(100 points)*
Review of group members	*1%*	*(5 points)*
Participation	5%	(25 points)
Homework	30%	(150 points)
	100%	**(500 points)**

Percent	Points	Grade
93 – 100%	500 – 465	A
90 – 92%	464 – 450	A-
85 – 89%	449 – 425	B+
80 – 84%	400 – 424	B
75 – 79%	375 – 399	B-
70 – 74%	350 – 374	C+
65 – 69%	325 – 349	C

If you decide to withdraw from this class, make sure you do so with the registrar. If you withdraw without permission, you will be assigned a failing grade. Once a student submits work for a grade, he/she will not be assigned a grade of "WU" under any circumstances.

Exams:
There will be **two exams during class on Thursday, March 19th**, **and on Thursday, April 23rd**. Please bring a scantron form (#882-E or similar), a #2 pencil and a non-programmable calculator with an exponent key on the day of exams. Exams will be closed book and given in the regular classroom. I will prepare a study guide and provide a formula sheet, posted prior to the exam.
There will be no make-up exams, and no early or late sittings for exams. If, due to a serious illness or family tragedy, you are unable to take one of the exams, your final grade will be based solely on the remaining assignments and exams. You must contact me immediately with appropriate documentation in order to receive this accommodation.

Group project and final paper:
You will also be required to complete a final empirical paper. This paper will be completed as a group project. The final paper is due on **May 21st at 5pm.** Details about this group project and a grading rubric are provided in separate handouts and discussed throughout in class.

Participation:
This portion of the grade will be determined by a combination of attendance and participation. Participation will be weighted heavily on the ability to answer questions related to the assigned reading material correctly. Students will be randomly selected or can volunteer to answer. In order to keep track of individual performance, students are responsible for sitting in a self-selected seat for the entire semester. Students who wish to earn all 25 points must miss no more than one class or have no more than one negative participation mark. Negative participation means that the student failed to answer a question (a wrong answer will NOT result in a negative mark if the student is prepared and makes a good faith effort to answer the question). Students who are apprehensive about speaking in public should make arrangements to discuss this matter privately during the first week of class.

Homework assignments:
Homework assignments will be posted and are due in SacCT. They will be assigned approximately every week, introduced in class and often require additional readings. They will be due the **following Thursday before class (by 1.30pm) in SacCT**. **No late assignments will be accepted**. While I will provide a detailed answer key for each assignment, I will only grade a random sample of assignments each time. Each student will receive a grade for 6 assignments only (out of 10 total) and I will drop your lowest score in calculating your final grade. Your score will be based on the mastery of the material as well as on your formatting. While I encourage you to work in groups, **the final submission should be your own work**.

Academic Honesty:
Academic honesty is expected as this class will be conducted in strict observance of the Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures available in the University Policy Manual (http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm). It assigns specific responsibilities to both faculty and students. Please review your responsibilities carefully and adhere to these rules. I encourage you to work together on problem sets and study in groups as I strongly believe it supports the learning process. However, work submitted for a grade must be your own.

Courtesy:
As a courtesy to your fellow students and me, please be respectful. Be on time for class. If you arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly. Please do not use your cell phones, tablets or laptops during lecture other than for class purposes. You can use your own laptop during lab sessions if you would like. Please provide me with feedback if I go too fast, slow, speak too softly or loudly. If you take issue with something I say or have a question, either speak up in class or come and see me afterwards.

Disabilities:
If you have a learning disability or a physical disability that requires accommodation, please let me know as soon as possible. All needs that have been verified through the Services to Students with Disabilities (Lassen Hall) will be accommodated.

Tentative schedule:

Week	Subject	Readings (Koop)
Week1 (Tu 01/27, Th 1/29)	Introduction and excel basics	Chapter 1-2, Appendix A
Week2 (Tu 2/3, Th 2/5)	Graphing data	Chapter 2
Week3 (Tu 2/10, Th 2/12)	Describing and transforming data	Chapter 2
Week4 (Tu 2/17, Th 2/19)	Correlation and causation	Chapter 3
Week5 (Tu 2/24, Th 2/26)	Simple regression	Chapter 4
Week6 (Tu 3/3, Th 3/5)	Statistical aspects and hypothesis testing	Chapter 5
Week7 (Tu 3/10, Th 3/12)	Multiple regression, dummy variables	Chapter 6,7
Week8 (Tu 3/17 Th 3/19) **Exam 1: Th 3/19**	review exam 1	
Week9(Tu 3/24, Th 3/26) **Spring break: no class**		
Week10(Tu 3/31, Th 4/2) **Cesar Chavez: no class on 3/31**	Non-linear transformations and interaction terms	Chapter 4, 7
Week11 (Tu 4/7, Th 4/9)	Potential issues and corrections: omitted variable bias and multicollinearity,	Chapter 6,13
Week12 (Tu 4/14, Th 4/16)	Potential issues and corrections (cont.): heteroskedasticity, endogeneity	Chapter 6,13
Week13 (Tu 4/21, Th 4/23) **Exam 2: Th 4/23**	review exam 2	
Week14 (Tu 4/28, Th 4/30)	Advanced multiple regression	Chapter 1-7,13
Week15 (Tu 5/5, Th 5/7)	Time series data analysis (Introduction)	Chapter 9-11
Week16 (Tu 5/12, Th 5/14)	Final paper workshop	Appendix A
Final paper due: May 21st, 5pm	**Final paper due**	

I hope you will enjoy this class and I wish you a great, successful semester.