SYLLABUS

Economics 140: Quantitative Economic Analysis
Sacramento State University, Department of Economics
Fall 2009
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Email: kiesel@csus.edu
Office phone: (916) 278-7078

Please read this information carefully. It describes important course policies and deadlines, and I will assume that you are familiar with them!

Lectures: Th 5:30 – 7:00pm, Amador Hall 217, 7:20-8:20pm Calaveras Hall 131(lab)

Office hours: Tu 1:45-2:45pm, Fr 9:00-10:00am, Tahoe 3011, online office hours in SacCT nearly every We 9:30-10:30 p.m

Textbook: Analysis of Economic Data, Gary Koop, 3rd Edition (required);
Statistics with Microsoft Excel, Beverly J. Dretzke, 4th Edition (recommended)
Freakonomics, Stephen J. Dubner, Steven Levitt (suggested)

Course overview and objectives:
One of the best ways to learn economics is conducting empirical research. We will examine the basics of conducting quantitative economic analysis and cover basic concepts and methods of data analysis and research. You will learn how to frame a good research question, survey the relevant literature, identify and apply an appropriate model to a given research problem, find and develop appropriate data, select and specify testable hypothesis, interpret and draw conclusions from your results. We will examine economic data using spreadsheets, develop presentation skills, and be introduced to career opportunities.
This course will prepare you to successfully complete an independent research project in Econ 145.
3 units.

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

Grades and exam policies:
Your final numerical average will be calculated based on your performance on homework assignments (40%), two exams (20% each), and a final group project (20%). Numerical scores will not be converted to letter grades until the very end of the semester. I will provide feedback on your performance over the course of the semester.
There will be two exams during class on Thursday, October 15, and on Thursday, December 3rd. Please bring a scantron form (#882-E or similar), a #2 pencil and a non-programmable calculator with an exponent key and a 3.5 x 5 inch handwritten note card with
relevant formulas, etc. on the day of exams. Exams will be closed book and given in the regular classroom.
Please check your schedule to ensure that you can attend these exams. **There will be no make-up exams, and no early or late sittings for exams.** If, due to a serious illness or family emergency, you are unable to take the midterm or final exam, 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.
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.

**Homework assignments and group project:**
In order to complete your homework assignments, you will be required to have a SacCT (WebCT). To access SacCT, go to [https://online.csus.edu/](https://online.csus.edu/) and click “SacCTLogin”. To create a Saclink account, go to [http://www.csus.edu/saclink/](http://www.csus.edu/saclink/). Assignments will be assigned approximately every week, introduced in the lab and often require additional readings. They will be due the **following Thursday before class (by 5.00pm) in SacCT. No late assignments will be accepted.** I will drop your lowest homework score in calculating your final grade. I encourage you to work in groups, but the final submission should be your own work.

Details on the Group project are provided on a separate handout later in the semester.

**How to do well in this class:**
1) Come to class! The easiest way to raise your grade is attendance in lectures.
(Romer found that the difference in performance between a student who attends regularly and one who attends sporadically is about a full letter grade ¹)
2) Work on homework assignments.
3) Read along in the textbook.
4) Do not fall behind. Economics is cumulative!
5) **SPEAK UP, BE ENGAGED AND PROACTIVE!**
   - Please give me feedback if I go too fast, slow, speak too softly or loudly.
   - If you take issue with something I say or have a question, speak up. A discussion is ALWAYS more interesting than a monologue.
6) Come to office hours. This time is reserved for you and your questions.

**Academic Honesty:**
Academic honesty is expected as this class will be conducted in strict observance of the ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PROCEDURES described in the University Policy Manual. Please review the manual carefully and adhere to these rules. While I encourage you to work together on problem sets and study in groups, work submitted for a grade must be your own. You will receive a **failing grade** for the entire class if any cheating or plagiarism occurs. I will also **report students** suspected of cheating to **Judicial Affairs**.

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III. DEFINITIONS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

A. Cheating. At CSUS, cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Cheating at CSUS includes but is not limited to:

1. Copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument;

2. Using crib notes, "cheat sheets," or any other device, including electronic devices, in aid of writing the exam not permitted by the instructor;

3. Submitting work previously graded in another course unless doing so has been approved by the course instructor or by department policy.

4. Submitting work simultaneously presented in more than one course, unless doing so has been approved by the respective course instructors or by the department policies of the respective departments.

5. Altering or interfering with grading or grading instructions;

6. Sitting for an examination by a surrogate, or as a surrogate;

7. Any other act committed by a student in the course of his or her academic work that defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting in any of the actions defined above.

B. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At CSUS plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporation of another's work into one's own requires adequate identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism is doubly unethical because it deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge. Plagiarism at CSUS includes but is not limited to:

1. The act of incorporating into one's own work the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work without giving appropriate credit thereby representing the product as entirely one's own. Examples include not only word-for-word copying, but also the "mosaic" (i.e., interspersing a few of one's own words while, in essence, copying another's work), the paraphrase (i.e., rewriting another's work while still using the other's fundamental idea or theory); fabrication (i.e., inventing or counterfeiting sources), ghost-writing (i.e., submitting another's work as one's own) and failure to include quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged; and

2. Representing as one's own another's artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works.

Source: ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PROCEDURES (available at http://www.csus.edu/umanual/student/UMA00150.htm)

Courtesy:
As a courtesy to me and your fellow students, please be on time for class. If you arrive late, please come in quietly and settle quickly. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers. The use of laptops is not necessary during lecture. Please turn off your laptops as the use of laptops is not necessary during lecture. If you need to use your laptop as a support during lecture, please let me know. Please bring and use your own laptop during lab sessions if you would like.

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Readings (Koop)</th>
<th>Readings (Dretzke)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week1 (Th 9/3)</td>
<td>Introduction and excel basics</td>
<td>Chapter 1-2</td>
<td>Chapter 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week2 (Tu 9/8** no office hours, Th 9/10)</td>
<td>Graphing data</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week3 (Th 9/17)</td>
<td>Describing and transforming data</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Week4 (Th 9/24)</td>
<td>Correlation and causation</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Week5 (Th 10/1)</td>
<td>Simple regression</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Chapter 11.1</td>
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<td>Week6 (Th 10/8 , Fr 10/9* no office hours)</td>
<td>Statistical aspects and hypothesis testing, review for exam 1</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Chapter 6.2-7,8.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week7 (Th 10/15, Fr 10/16** no office hours)</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>Chapter 1-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week8 (Th 10/22)</td>
<td>Multiple regression</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Chapter 11.2</td>
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<td>Week9 (Th 10/29)</td>
<td>Dummy variables</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Chapter 11.3</td>
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<td>Week10 (Th 11/5)</td>
<td>Omitted variable bias, multicollinearity, heteroskedasticity</td>
<td>Chapter 6, 12</td>
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<td>Week11 (Th 11/12)</td>
<td>Time series variables, review for exam 2</td>
<td>Chapter 8-10</td>
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<td>Week12 (Th 11/19)</td>
<td>Writing an empirical research project</td>
<td>Appendix A</td>
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<td>Week13 (11/24** no office hours, Thanksgiving)</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>Week14 (Th 12/3)</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>Chapter 6-10</td>
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<td>Week15 (Th 12/10)</td>
<td>Limitations, extensions, and what next</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Week 16 (Th 12/17)</td>
<td>Final group project due</td>
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### Note on Furloughs:

Faculty is required to take a total of 9 furlough days per semester during the 2009-2010 academic year. One of these days is a campus-wide furlough day, designated by the President (October 16, 2009, marked by*). The remaining 8 days are selected by the individual faculty and subject to approval by the dean. Days marked** indicate individual faculty’s designated furlough days in the course outline above. Your other classes will meet as regularly scheduled on these days, unless you are otherwise notified by your instructor. On furlough days, the instructor is not permitted to hold classes, office hours, respond to e-mail, etc. The University has recommended that faculty make up for missed in-class meeting time through additional assignments.

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