



SACRAMENTO STATE

Economics 145: Economic Research Methods

MRP 1011 Fridays 11:00a.m.-1:50 p.m.

(Section 7)

Instructor: Brian P. Rosario
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Class Meetings: Our class is scheduled to meet on Fridays 11:00-1:50 p.m. at MRP 1011. Final Project Presentations will be on the last week of classes and will be held somewhere in the University Union.

Catalog Description: This course covers the basics of conducting applied economic research: the selection of topic, literature survey, research method, formulation of hypothesis, testing of hypothesis, using empirical analysis, summary and conclusions. The course is designed to enhance students' ability to integrate economic theory, quantitative skills, and conducting actual research.

Prerequisites Courses: ECON 100A, ECON 100B, ECON 140. Additionally, both a passing score on the WPE/WPJ as well as graduating senior status are required.

Objectives:

1. Select a research question, formulate a hypothesis, apply an economic model, and collect and analyze data.
2. Write a report and present findings to classmates and professors.
3. Apply economic theory to real world situations, and use economic theory to frame analysis of research questions.
4. Learn where resources and data can be found over the Internet and at the library.
5. Learn to use statistical analysis to help understand real world situations.
6. Gain an appreciation for the value of economic reasoning and research, but also recognize the limitations of its application.

Course Textbook:

Greenlaw, S. (2009), *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economics Research*, Houghton Mifflin.

Suggested Textbooks (from ECN 140/141):

Studenmund A.H. (2011), *Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide*, 6th Edition, Pearson.

Koop, G. (2013), *Analysis of Economic Data*, 4th Edition, Wiley.

Grading: Your course grade will be weighted as follows:

1. In class assignments	70%
2. Paper (first draft and final submission)	20%
3. Final Presentation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Active class participation is an important part of the learning process in this course. In addition to lectures, this class will provide you with the opportunity to work with other students on assignments in class, as well as exchange, brainstorm and learn from each other and interact with your professor on a one-on-one basis.

Homework and other class materials will be posted in Canvas. Please visit the site regularly.

Additional Policies:

1. Academic honesty is required. A student will receive a grade of zero on any work in which dishonesty occurs.

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.*

2. Come to class on time. Do not come late on the days that you will be presenting.
3. Attendance is required and is checked every meeting. **Your grade will be docked 5% of the class grade for each class meeting missed.** Your first absence during the semester will not be penalized. Individuals who show up for less than 30% of the class time and who do not give me a summary of weekly progress may be marked absent.
4. Homework that are turned in up to one week late will be accepted with a 25% penalty. Homework that are turned in more than one week late, but less than 2 weeks late will be accepted and corrected, but will receive a grade of zero. Any student who has more than two homework receiving a zero grade MAY NOT PASS this class. **As a courtesy, you will be informed immediately if you mathematically have no chance of passing the class. You are welcome to continue working on your project with the intention of completing it in future semesters.**
5. Please note your writing may be turned in **both** electronic format and hard copy, as directed. I will provide you feedback on hard copy and/or track change it electronically. You will need to keep the commented copies and maintain a portfolio of all work. The hard copies should be kept in the binder, and dated and track-changed versions of your draft, data, and sources should be in a folder, along with the power point presentations.
6. Success in the class requires that you complete an acceptable research paper and successfully present it in front of some of the Economics Department faculty and your peers. You cannot pass the class without fulfilling both requirements. Further, I will not award "INCOMPLETE" grades in this class.
7. For Student Athletes: It is your duty to provide me with your schedule on the first week of class. If you have an event that requires you to miss class on the day homework is due, you need to turn your homework before **you TRAVEL**. Failure to do so mean your homework is late.

Course Outline:

Meeting date	Activity
Week 1	Introduction Overview of Research Process (Chapter 1-2) (1/24)
Week 2	Topic Selection (Chapter 6) Library tour with Bill Kristie (Library Room 136) (1/31) Due: Review of a Research Journal
Week 3	Literature Review (Chapter 3-6) Due: Research Topic (2/7)
Week 4	Oral Presentation of Project Prospectus Due: Proposed Bibliography (2/14)
Week 5	Conceptualizing the Research (Chapter 7) Due: Project Prospectus (2/21)
Week 6	Locating and Collecting data (Chapter 8) Due: Review of Literature (2/28)
Week 7	Manipulating Your Data Set (Chapter 9) Due: Preliminary Data Set and Sources (3/6)
Week 8	Empirical Methodologies/Testing (Chapter 10) Due: Data Set (3/13)
Week 9	Regression Analysis (Chapter 11) Due: Completed Methodology (3/27)
Week 10	Regression Analysis (continued) (Chapter 11) Due: Preliminary results (4/3)
	Spring Break (4/3)
Week 11	Communicating Results (Written) (Chapter 12) Due: Complete Regression Results (4/10)
Week 12	Communicating Results (Oral) (Chapter 12) Due: Conclusion & Abstract (4/17)
Week 13	Due: Submission of Draft of Entire Paper (4/24)
Week 14	Practice Presentations Due: Presentation Slides (5/1)
Week 15	Final Presentations Venue: TBD (5/8)
May 15, 2020	Submission of Final Project by 11 a.m. (via canvas as .docx file)

Grading Scale:

95-100%	A		74-76.99%	C
90-94.99 %	A-		70-73.99%	C-
87-89.99%	B+		67-69.99%	D+
84-86.99%	B		64-66.99%	D
80-83.99%	B-		60-63.99%	D-
77-79.99%	C+		Below 60%	F