

California State University, Sacramento
Department of Economics

Economics 145-01: Economic Research Methods
Spring 2017

Lecture: MW 3:00-4:15 p.m., Amador 217/Mariposa 1011 (CRN # 34091)

Course Web Page: <http://www.csus.edu/sacct>

Instructor: Michael Dowell

Office: Tahoe 3021

email: mdowell@csus.edu

Telephone: (916) 278-7062

Office Hours: Monday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Thursday 1:00-2:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Please read this entire syllabus completely and thoroughly!!!

I have devoted a significant amount of time and effort to developing it and you should consider it to be the ground rules. It is essentially a contract between you and me. "I didn't read the syllabus" is not an acceptable excuse for failing to abide by the rules and will not exempt you from the consequences.

Note on Class Location: The first class meeting will be held in Amador 217. *Tentative* future meeting locations are included in the course schedule, though these are subject to change.

Catalog Description: ECON 145. (Economic Research Methods) covers the basics of conducting applied economic research: the selection of topic, literature survey, choice of research method, formulation of hypothesis, testing of hypothesis using empirical analysis, and summary and conclusions. Designed to enhance the students' ability to integrate economic theory, quantitative research skills, and research. **Prerequisite:** ECON 100A, ECON 100B, ECON 140 with a minimum "C" grade; GWAR certification before Fall 09, WPJ score of 70+, or at least a C- in ENGL 109 M/W.

An IMPORTANT Note on Prerequisites: Having simply completed the prerequisites is not enough to guarantee success in this class as you will need to actually understand and be able to apply the relevant prerequisite knowledge in order to complete the required research paper. The excuses that you "took a class with Professor Y but didn't learn anything" or "it was a long time ago, so I have forgotten everything" simply will not work. If this really is the case, you will need to devote enough extra time to this course very early on to learn or relearn the necessary material. I will provide *some* review of relevant material and additional references for you to study on your own, but will in no way try to re-teach all the prerequisite material.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course you will demonstrate the ability to

- explain and correctly apply economic theory to real world situations, and use economic theory to frame analysis of research questions;
- select a research topic, survey the relevant economic literature, formulate a viable research question and formulate a testable hypothesis;
- explain and correctly apply an appropriate economic model to your research question;
- locate resources and data both over the internet and in the library;
- collect and analyze data and use statistical and econometric analysis to help understand real world situations and test your hypothesis;
- recognize the value of economic reasoning and research, but also recognize the limits of its application;
- identify appropriate policy implications of the results of your research;
- write a clear, concise and properly formatted twenty to twenty-five page scholarly paper detailing your work and findings and present your findings to classmates and a committee of faculty.

Academic Rigor

Work Load: This is an exceptionally demanding upper division university level class with a very heavy reading and work load. At the university level, average students in a typical class are expected to devote *at least* two hours of research and study time outside of class for every hour that they are in class in order to earn a C grade. This equates to a minimum of six hours per week outside of class, for an average student in a typical class. **This however, is not a typical class!** This is your senior thesis class in which you are expected to complete a 20 to 25 page empirical research paper with at least some degree of originality in which you demonstrate competency in the material you have studied over the course of your time in the Economics major. Most of you will find that you will need to spend far more than six hours per week outside of class to successfully do this, something which will be particularly true for those of you who have made a career of seeking out easy classes and/or forgetting everything as soon as the final exam is completed. A passing grade (C or better) requires that you attain all the course objectives listed above. While hard work is certainly required, long hours alone will not guarantee a passing grade in this course. The only way to pass this class is to demonstrate attainment of the course objectives.

Warning: Do not fall behind! This is not a class in which you can do everything at the last minute and squeak by with a C. **There is no curve to rescue you as absolute, not relative performance will determine your grade!** Missing classes (see below) or failing to turn in assignments on time will quickly place you in a position from which it is impossible to recover and pass the class. Econ 145 must be very high on your list of priorities; if you are trying to take this course along with several others while also working a full time job, you are unlikely to succeed. The work you do in this class should be your very best work. Think of producing a high quality final paper as your 'job,' because it is! The only difference is that if you fail to do your job in this class the result is a failing grade rather than a trip to the unemployment line. If you have not already started you are behind, so get started now! When you run into obstacles, come see me. I want you to succeed and will do all I can to help you, though I will not do your work for you; nor will I shortchange hard working and productive students by devoting an excessive amount of my time late in the semester to helping those who are in danger of failing due to their own lack of effort. A lack of planning and effort on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part!

Readings and Software

Required Book: The required book for this class is Steven S. Greenlaw's (2005) *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying out Economic Research* which is available in the campus bookstore or from numerous online sources. **DO NOT DELAY GETTING THIS BOOK. YOU WILL FIND IT VERY USEFUL AS YOU WORK ON YOUR PAPER!** Ideally, you will have purchased and read the entire book before the first day of class! (It is a very short book.)

Software: In this class most of you will use the Eviews econometrics package which is available in campus computer labs. If you are interested in purchasing your own copy of the program for use at home you can do so for \$95.00 through the link posted on SacCT. **DO NOT PURCHASE EIEWS FOR USE ON AN APPLE MACHINE AS IT LIKELY WILL NOT WORK!** You are allowed to use other econometrics packages (not Excel, as it is not an econometrics package) if you wish, but should not expect me to instruct you in their use or necessarily to be able to answer questions about their use. I will spend a small amount of time instructing you in the use of Eviews, but will also expect you to make use of the book *Eviews Illustrated* by Richard Startz which you can download as a PDF from the Eviews web site at <http://www.eviews.com/illustrated/illustrated.html>. Some of you may instead use STATA (for which I will provide instruction and resources) if it is more appropriate for your project. STATA is also available in the campus labs.

Additional Books and References: I will also expect you to make use of your textbook from Econ 140 which you should already have. Additionally many of you will also find it advantageous to have access to an econometrics text book. If you have taken Econ 141 you should use the book from that class. If not, I personally find Jeffrey Wooldridge's *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach* to be a particularly thorough, though at times relatively high level, treatment. A much more basic treatment is presented in A.H. Studenmund's *Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide* which many people have used in Econ 141. Studenmund however, provides a relatively non-rigorous treatment of many topics (although he often provides very good intuition) and completely omits some topics which may be relevant to your project. If you are weak in econometrics and really want to learn, I think there is great value in reading Studenmund first and then Wooldridge. For either of these texts, any edition will do, though latter ones are preferred.

Finally, many of you will find McCloskey's *Economical Writing*, 2nd ed. (Waveland Press) which discusses numerous "rules" for academic writing useful.

Other readings and materials will be posted to the course web page and I will expect you to read those that are relevant to your project and the techniques you are using. You are responsible for demonstrating mastery of relevant material through the several assignments you will submit during the semester as well as your final paper. It is my expectation that you will make full use of all the resources available to you (that means read things) and not just rely on me to tell you everything!

Additional Administrative Details

E-mail Communication and Etiquette: The best way to contact me outside of class and office hours is via email. I will do my best to respond to emails reasonably promptly during normal business hours Monday through Thursday; realize that I do not sit in front of a computer with internet access all day every day though. I generally respond to email somewhat more quickly in this class than in others. Nonetheless, when I am off campus my only email access is only through a very small screen on a smart phone and on weekends, I am sometimes out of range of cell service and email altogether. When I am off campus, any replies you get from me will be very short and I will not try to look at your data set or any documents you send me until I am in my office.

You should view your e-mail as a professional business communication in which you are trying to impress me with your intelligence and ability to do well in my class, not as a text message to one of your friends or classmates. In the interest of achieving this goal, emails sent to me must have "Econ 145" in the subject line. Additionally, please address me in a more respectful manner than "Hey," use proper grammar, capitalization and punctuation in your message and sign your emails with both your first and last names. Emails that don't meet these minimum expectations will likely be discarded without being read. For further guidance on writing proper and effective emails to your professors, you should read the article at <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>.

Announcements and Messages: I will at times send important class announcements by email using the SacSend messaging system or SacCT, so be sure your email on file with the University is correct, one you check regularly (at least during business hours), and that your inbox is not full.

Lectures, Open Lab Time and Course Materials: In a departure from past practice in Econ 145, this class will be clearly split into lectures (and presentations) which will take place in Amador 217 or another scheduled location and open lab sessions which will take place in Mariposa 1011. Some lectures will review material from Econ 140, though most will present new material relevant to completing your project. It is possible that on a very small number of lecture days we will start in Amador 217 then move to Mariposa 1011 to finish out the session with open lab. Open lab, whether specifically scheduled or not is time for you to work on your projects and get my assistance. It is essential that you have all your course materials available in electronic or hard copy format as appropriate at every class session! Do not squander open lab time by not having your materials available.

Electronic Devices: In an effort to reduce the multitasking which research shows at best reduces your productivity and at worst reduces your IQ, this course has a no-electronic-devices-during-lecture and presentations policy. Laptops should be closed. Phones, tablets, pads, pods, Apple or Google watches and other devices should be turned off and stowed in your pack or under your chair. **Students caught violating this policy will be assumed not to be fully engaged in the class and may be counted as being absent and incur the penalties for absences described below.**

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance is mandatory! This is not a correspondence course!! Our class time is devoted to lectures in which I convey vitally important information, presentations and open lab time during which I help you to successfully complete your project. There is no way for you to make up missed time or material as I will not attempt to cover it with you on an individual basis during office hours; to do so would impose an unacceptable opportunity cost on me and large externalities on your classmates as well as students in my other classes. To incentivize you to attend as required the following penalties will be imposed:

Number of Absences	Penalty per Absence
1-3	None
4-5	3% of course grade or 3 points each
6-7	5% of course grade or 5 points each
8-9	7% of course grade or 7 points each
10 or more	failing grade in the course

Penalties are cumulative. For example, if you miss 7 class sessions, there is no penalty for the first three absences, a penalty of 3 points each for the fourth and fifth absences and a penalty of 5 points each for the sixth and seventh absences for a total penalty of 16 points or 16% of your course grade.

These penalties are non-negotiable. It simply isn't possible to do well in the class if you are not present. If you can't attend my class as required, you should drop now and enroll in another section that better fits your schedule or wait until a future semester when you have time to actually attend class. Those arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving before class is dismissed will also be counted as absent.

Required Consultations: As part of this class, you are required to meet with me in my office for multiple one-on-one consultations over the course of the semester. There simply is no way that I can spend adequate time with each of you during open lab sessions and it is virtually impossible for you to produce an acceptable project if we never speak to each other at length. Your first required consultation with me will be for the purpose of discussing your proposed research topic and will take place by early in the second week of the semester at the latest, though during the first week is preferred. Further information about this meeting and a sign-up sheet will be provided before or at the first class meeting. Additional mandatory consultations will be scheduled during the semester as necessary. I will do my best to schedule consultations at a mutually convenient time, though it will ultimately be your responsibility to adjust your schedule if needed to fit the available time slots. All consultations are mandatory, and must be completed before additional work will be accepted.

Student Information Survey: You are required to complete the Student Information Survey which is posted on SacCT. Some of the information you provide on this survey allows me to make minor adjustment in the presentation of the course material in an effort to enhance your ability to successfully complete the required project. I will not accept any assignments from you until you have met with me to discuss your topic and completed the Student Information Survey. Due dates and penalties still apply and will not be extended or waived because you are late in completing these tasks.

Research Topics and Questions: You will be required to pick a topic and research question early in the semester. Specific details and guidance are provided in Student Information Sheet #1 posted on SacCT. A list of possible topics will also be provided on SacCt for those who are having difficulty picking a viable topic. Your topic and research question must be approved by me. I will not allow you to move forward with a topic and/or question that is not likely to lead to a satisfactory paper.

If after your topic and question have been approved, you decide to change your topic and/or question, you must meet with me (outside of class) and gain my approval. Since the individual assignments are parts of your final paper, you likely will be required to redo at least some and possibly all of the work you have already submitted. This work will be graded to the original standards, with the new grades replacing the original grades, except that in no case will the new grade be higher than the original grade. The amount of work that has to be redone will depend on how different the new topic and/or question is and will be solely at my discretion. Due dates for future assignments will not be changed to accommodate a change in research topic and/or question. If you submit work that reflects a change of topic and/or question without my prior approval I will reject that and all following work (and relevant late penalties will apply) until you have met with me and gained my approval for the change.

Class Participation: Research is a collaborative process and your participation constitutes a valuable contribution to the process. Hence, you may not sit mute at the back of the room all term. I reserve the right to incorporate various types of class participation such as peer-review of writing and questioning or evaluating classmate's presentations into the grades for your individual assignments.

Major Assignments: Over the course of the semester you will complete several assignments all of which are directly related to your final paper. It is vitally important that you read and follow all instructions for each individual assignment as failing to do so will significantly reduce your grade. The major assignments (excluding the final paper and presentation) and their point value and relative weighting in your final grade are as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Assignment 1: | Critical Reading-Topic Statement and Research Question (8 points – 8%)* |
| Assignment 2: | Prospectus and Annotated Bibliography: The plan for your project. (10 points – 10%)* |
| Assignment 3: | Literature Review (10 points – 10%) |
| Assignment 4: | Economic Framework/Theory - A description of your proposed methodology, economic theory and model. (10 points -10%)* |
| Assignment 5A: | Data Exploration: A complete data set, a description and interpretation of your preliminary data analysis and a Data Appendix (4 points -4%)* |
| Assignment 5B | Preliminary Regression Results: A description and interpretation of your preliminary regression results (4 points -4%)* |
| Assignment 5C | Revised Data Analysis and Regression Results: A revised/final description and interpretation of your data analysis and revised/final regression results (10 points – 10% - will be counted as late unless both 5A and 5B are turned in on time and accepted as satisfactory) |
| Assignment 6: | Draft Paper: A complete draft of your paper including an introduction, conclusion and abstract (20 points – 20% - The draft paper will not be accepted unless all previous assignments have been submitted and if necessary revised and resubmitted.) |
| Assignment 7: | Printed Power Point Presentation and Final Project Practice Presentation (4 points – 4% for PowerPoint only- no points for presentation itself, but the presentation must be satisfactorily completed in order to receive an invitation to present as described below)* |

*Assignments that include an oral presentation

All assignments will be posted on SacCT, generally long before they are due. You should look ahead as assignments are posted because as I will discuss in lecture, the assignments are related in such a way that you can't treat each as a completely independent exercise. It is much better to look ahead and be thinking ahead as you complete each assignment as many build on previous assignments and your final paper is the cumulative result of all the major assignments completed over the course of the semester.

All assignments except the final paper are considered drafts in the sense that, regardless of the grade, I will make comments and provide feedback which I expect you to address when you incorporate the individual assignments into future assignments and your final paper. (Even though the assignments are drafts, they still should reflect your best work; more on this below.) To keep track of the revisions you complete, you will keep all the above assignments in a portfolio for which you will need a ½" three ring binder. (Do not use anything larger!) You must put your name both on the front cover and on the spine in a highly visible manner; please do so in a very neat, clean and professional manner. (An example of a portfolio will be shown at the first class meeting.) Assignments turned in in any manner other than an acceptable portfolio will be returned ungraded! The portfolio is to be handed in with all drafts of previous work each time you submit an assignment so I can look at any given assignment as a part of your total project rather than in isolation. This, of course, means you will be without your work and any comments while it is in my possession so I would strongly urge you to make photocopies or scans of each assignment when you get it back.

Assignments must be submitted in both hard copy and electronic format by the specified due dates and times; detailed instructions will be given with the first assignment. Late assignments (either electronic or hard copy), even if they are only one minute late, will be penalized 50%. For assignments submitted more than one week late, I will read them and make comments and corrections, but they will earn no points. All assignments must be submitted in order to pass the class and assignments must be submitted in sequential order. Note that assignments are generally due on Thursdays by 2:30 p.m. rather than on Wednesdays which is our regular class meeting day. (There are a couple of deviations from this with Assignment 1 being due on a Tuesday and Assignment 5A due on a Friday.) I shift the due date for your written work in this manner to give you a bit more time to refine your work after our class meetings. If you find it "inconvenient" to turn in your work on a day when class does not meet, (as some past students have) that is certainly understandable and you have two options; you can turn the assignment in during class at the class meeting before it is due or alternatively, you can have a trusted friend or classmate turn it in for you. You can't just turn it in electronically and bring me the hard copy when you get around to it though. I will generally be in my office by 1:00 on Thursdays for office hours. However, if you come at a time when I'm not in, there will be a box either in the department office or outside my door for you to leave your portfolio in.

Written assignments are graded on both content AND quality of writing. The fact that they are drafts does not mean that you are free to submit poor quality work and expect me to make extensive comments telling you how to fix careless errors. As graduating seniors, you have by now had at least 16 years of formal education and I expect your work to reflect this. All written work must be proofread. If your writing is generally weak, you should avail yourself of the services of the writing center. You would also be wise to partner with a classmate and read each other's writing. **When reviewing your work, if I find several major grammatical or formatting errors (e.g., more than two on a page), a blatant failure to follow instructions, an assignment that isn't substantially completed, or an assignment that in general shows no evidence of real effort on your part, I will return your work with no further review. You will then be required to revise and resubmit the work and will incur a 50% penalty for late work.** You will have one week to resubmit the work, starting from the time I return the assignment to the class; even if you are absent when I return the work this limitation applies.

Final Project: Your work in this course will culminate in a final empirical research paper, typically 20 to 25 pages long (including diagrams, references and appendices) which makes at least some limited original contribution to the existing literature. Your paper will include the following sections:

- I. Title Page and Abstract
- II. Introduction
- III. Literature Review
- IV. Economic Theory and Model
- V. Data Summary and Exploration
- VI. Econometric Analysis
- VII. Conclusion
- VIII. Data Appendix
- IX. References

In addition to your written paper, you will make an oral presentation of approximately eight to ten minutes to an audience of your classmates, other students and a committee of three or more faculty. Audience members may ask you questions about your research and your final presentation grade will be determined in part by how well you answer these questions.

Extensive instruction on completing your project will be provided over the course of the semester through lectures, individual consultations, and the assignments listed above which become parts of your paper. You will be given extensive feedback on your work and it is my expectation that you will incorporate this feedback into your final paper. Regardless of how many points you have accumulated prior to submitting your final paper, you must earn a score of 70% (10.5 out of 15 points) or greater on the final paper in order to pass the class. The most likely way to fall below this threshold is to ignore and fail to incorporate my feedback on the individual assignments into future work.

Grades

Components of your grade are weighted as follows:

Major Assignments	80% (80 points)
Final Paper	15% (15 points)
Final Presentation	5% (5 points)

Your final score in the class will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final Score} = (\text{total points}) \times (\text{on-time final paper score} \geq 70\%) \times (\text{accepted invitation to present})$$

where on-time final paper score $\geq 70\%$ (or 10.5 points) is a binary variable equal to one if you turn your final paper in on time and earn a score of at least 70% (and zero otherwise) and accepted invitation to present is also a binary variable equal to one if after submitting your draft paper and making your practice presentation you are invited to give a final presentation and actually do so (and zero otherwise). Only those students who submit a satisfactory draft paper and also give a practice presentation that is satisfactory or that has errors that can feasibly be corrected in the available time will be given an invitation to present. I also reserve the right to make your invitation to present conditional upon your providing me evidence that you have corrected significant errors or deficiencies. It is my expectation and intent that most or all students who follow instructions and successfully complete all their work in a timely manner will be given an invitation to present, though it could be conditional. However, I will not hesitate to deny an invitation to anyone who demonstrates excessive laziness or incompetence in their practice presentation or draft paper as I will not allow you to be an embarrassment to yourself, to me, or to the Economics Department.

Final grades will be distributed according to the following scale:

Final Score	Letter Grade	Final Score	Letter Grade
94-100	A	77-79.99	B-
88-93.99	A-	74-76.99	C+
84-87.99	B+	70-73.99	C
80-83.99	B	Less than 70	F

Note two things: First, I do not assign grades of C- or any flavor of D because they are meaningless grades in this class as you must pass with a C or better to graduate. Anything less is failing and hence, assigning a grade of “barely passing” is nonsensical. Second, if you skip class sessions, fail to turn assignments in on time or consistently submit poor quality work you will find yourself in a position where you have lost more than 30 of the possible 100 points which makes it mathematically impossible to pass the class. In this event, I will no longer accept work from you and will ask that you stop attending so I can focus my time and energy on those who are doing their work satisfactorily and can successfully complete the class. **If at any point your cumulative point loss exceeds 30 points, your course grade will be an F!**

Policies

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty is expected. ANY ACTS OF PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE IN THE COURSE PLUS REFERAL TO THE ADMINISTRATION WITH MY RECOMMENDATION YOU BE EXPELLED FROM THE UNIVERSITY. Please see the extended information on plagiarism posted to the course web page. I also do not allow resubmission of work that has been previously submitted and graded by another professor. If you are repeating this class you must start with a new project as submitting work that has already been graded by another professor without my permission is a form of academic dishonesty and is subject to the same penalties as plagiarism.

Punctuality: Please do your best to arrive for class on time. If you must arrive late, please do so as inconspicuously as possible, particularly when your classmates are doing presentations. (Keep in mind that you will be counted as absent if you are more than 10 minutes late.)

Drop Policy and WU Grades: I will strictly enforce University drop policies. I will only assign WU grades to students who submit no work. Students disappearing after submitting any work will receive a grade of F.

Recording of Lectures: Audio and/or any kind of video recording of lectures and presentations without the permission of the presenter is prohibited and is a violation of federal copyright laws unless you have a learning disability that requires such recording (see below) in which case all recordings must be used only by the person making them and must be destroyed at the end of the semester.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities/Emergencies: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide appropriate documentation to Services for Students with Disabilities, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. They will determine your needs and provide you with the necessary forms to bring to me. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester. I also will to the extent required by law or University policy (and only to that extent) waive late work or attendance penalties for those who document an emergency entitling you to such accommodation and document that the emergency prevented you from fulfilling your responsibilities. Merely bringing a note that says you saw a doctor will not entitle you to any accommodation as there must be a documented causal relation between your emergency and your failure to meet a course requirement. In the case of such emergency, you must use your three non-penalized absences first. As a rule, your best option in the event you can't attend class and keep up, regardless of the reason, is to withdraw. Note that

Tentative Class Schedule

I will add reading assignments to this schedule as we go along, possibly from the class text, but from other sources as well. All readings are required in the sense that if the work you submit in the class demonstrates a lack of comprehension of assigned readings you will suffer severe consequences. This schedule is tentative with respect to topics, but firm with respect to due dates (except see Note 2 below). Any significant changes to this schedule will be announced in class and/or by email and posted in SacCT.

Week	Date	Location	Activity /Topic	Assignment/Ref's
1	1/23/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Very Brief Overview of the Research Process and Final Product• Research Topics and Questions - Choosing a Topic and Developing a Question• Critical Reading of Published Research	Greenlaw, chapters 1, 2 & 6
	1/25/17	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Library Resources by Bill Kristie (Lib 2022)	
2	1/30/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Process Revisited• Economic Methodology; Economic Theories and Models Continued	Friedman, "Methodology of Positive Economics" Greenlaw, chapters 7 and 10
	2/1/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Writing in Economics• Chicago Style	Greenlaw, chapters 4 and 5
3	2/6/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Data and Data Sources• Data Set Construction; the Data Appendix• Data Exploration: Graphs and Descriptive Statistics	Greenlaw, Chapter 8 and chapter 9
	2/8/17	AMD	Presentation of Assignment 1 (Topic/Question Proposal)	
	2/9/17	Assignment 1 Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
4	2/13/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data Exploration: Graphs and Descriptive Statistics Continued• Presentation of Data Exploration	
	2/15/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Writing the Prospectus (research proposal)• Writing the Literature Review	Greenlaw appendix 2A and 2B, chapter 3 and pp. 236-239 Lit Rev. Samples
5	2/20/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Classical Linear Regression Model (will be started on 2/15/17 time permitting)	Greenlaw, Chapter 11 and additional TBA
	2/22/17	AMD	Presentation of Assignment 2 (Prospectus)	
	2/23/17	Assignment 2 Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
6	2/27/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpreting Results• Hypothesis Testing	Greenlaw, chapter 11 and additional TBA
	3/1/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Eviews: Basic Data and Regression Analysis	Startz, chapters 1, 2 and 7
	3/2/17	Assignment 3 Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
7	3/6/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Binary Variables	TBA
	3/8/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violation of Assumptions of the CLRM• Diagnostics	Greenlaw, chapters 10 & 11, Startz, chapter 3
	3/9/17	Assignment 4 Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		

8	3/13/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Lab (Work on Assignment 5a)	
	3/15/17	AMD	Presentation of Assignment 5A (Data Exploration)	
	3/17/17	Assignment 5A Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 5:00 p.m.		
No Class Week of 3/20/17 – Spring Break				
9	3/27/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diagnostics Continued• Corrective Measures• Panel Data Issues	Greenlaw, chapters 10 & 11
	3/29/17		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Time Series Issues	TBA
10	4/3/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Lab (Work on Assignment 5B)	
	4/5/17	AMD	Presentation of Assignment 5B (Preliminary Regression Results)	
	4/6/17	Assignment 5B Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
11	4/10/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Econometrics Topics TBD	
	4/12/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Lab (Finalize Assignment 5C)	
	4/13/17	Assignment 5C Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
12	4/17/17	AMD	<i>Writing the Intro, Conclusion and Abstract</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembling Your Final Paper	Greenlaw, Chapter 12
	4/19/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Lab	
	4/20/17	Assignment 6 Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 2:30 p.m.		
13	4/24/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Final Presentation and Discussion of Common Issues in Draft Papers	
	4/26/17	MRP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Lab	
14	5/1/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice Presentations	
	5/3/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practice Presentations	
15	5/8/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Presentations	
	5/10/17	AMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Presentations	
	5/12/17	Final Paper Due in Electronic Format and Hard Copy in my Office by 5:00 p.m.		
16	Finals Week – No Obligations for Econ 145!			

- Notes:
1. Several chapters from the Greenlaw book are assigned for more than one topic or class session. This is because some chapters include relevant material for more than one topic. With one exception though, I'm not going to assign just a few pages because of the resulting loss of context. Besides, you should read the entire book at least twice!
 2. Note assignment due dates carefully. You will usually present assignments before the due date for the actual written work. You will receive feedback during your presentation which should be incorporated into your written submission. Due dates may be adjusted at my discretion. I will never move them up, but may push them back. I will do this only if the class as a whole is working very hard and can benefit from a bit of extra time though, not as a means of rewarding laziness. Carefully check the actual assignments for specific due dates and times to be sure you meet all deadlines.
 3. In a departure from previous semesters, I am including more lecture and hence less open lab time. My intent is that by providing more specific instruction, you will be able to write better papers (and do better economics) than otherwise would be the case. Realize that in order to cover the necessary econometrics, much of this material will have to be covered some time before the relevant assignments are due. You still must take careful notes and apply the material to your work as appropriate!