ECO 2400 – Econometrics

Instructor: Bipasha Maity

Ashoka University Spring Semester

Course Outline:

This is an introductory course in Econometrics at the undergraduate level. The aim of the course is to acquaint one with the methodologies and tools that are used by economists to understand how data is used to understand economic relationships. This course, essentially, builds on our knowledge of statistical inference to understand meaningful relationships in an underlying population using a sample from the population. Econometric methodologies are widely used in economics, political science, sociology, public policy and in other disciplines.

Instructor Contact Details:

Office: AC 04 812

Office Hours: TBA

Email: bipasha.maity@ashoka.edu.in (usage is discouraged)

Reading List:

Chapters 1 -7 (and 8, if time permitting) of Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach (5th edition) by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge (JMW for short). Therefore, JMW is the required textbook for the course.

There would be computer based empirical exercises using the statistical software, STATA.

Resources for learning how to use STATA are:

https://blogs.ubc.ca/datawithstata/home-page/stata/

https://blogs.ubc.ca/datawithstata/videos/

In general, Google is your friend in this – there are tonnes of online resources, including from STATA itself.

Grading Rubric:

Problem Sets: 20%

Midterm Exam 1: 25%

Midterm Exam 2: 25%

Final Exam: 30%

Problem sets from time to time and the exams will definitely include computer based empirical exercises using STATA, apart from theoretical problems. Therefore, you need to focus on learning well both the theoretical concepts as well as how to apply them using data in STATA.

Each problem set will include 5-6 problems, the TF will pick one/two questions at random and that will be graded. However, you will need to work on all of them as ex-ante you will not know which of these will be graded. Solutions of all the problems, depending on the level of difficulty, will be discussed in the DS led by the TF. The DS will also cover how to use STATA and data handling in STATA. Students can discuss problems among themselves for the problem sets. But each student should turn in their own problem set which has been written out in their own language. Empirical exercises should contain all relevant files according to instruction.

Midterm exams would take place in class and their dates along with syllabus will be announced in advance. The final exam will take place during the finals week. The final exam is going to be **cumulative**. Both the midterms and final exams will include conceptual (aka theoretical) questions and empirical problems that will require the use of STATA.

Absolute grading applies for the course. The conversion between the numerical and letter grade is a follows: 85 & above: A, 80-84: A-, 75-79: B+, 70-74: B, 65-69: B-, 60-64: C+, 55-59: C, 50-54: C-, 45-49: D+, 40-44: D, <40: F

Course Policies:

I do not have any attendance policy. Needless to say, being regular in classes and the DS will ensure success and a good learning outcome.

There is no scheme of completing "extra-credit" assignments for improving one's grade in this course.

Missing exams is very strongly discouraged. There is no make-up exam for this course and grades for all assignments will be considered for arriving at the final grade. Any requests for regrading means that the entire exam/assignment will be regraded (and not just the specific question of concern); it is therefore possible that

a regrade could result in a lower score. If you miss an exam, you will lose the weightage associated with that exam completely. If you miss all exams, then it implies that you have learned nothing from the course and hence the grade you will automatically receive is F.

Etiquettes to be followed during the course:

1) Emails should be kept to a minimum, course doubts should be clarified in class, DS and office hours. In case you end up sending an email, you must wait 24 hours and then send a reminder email if you don't hear from me. Last minute frantic emails to set up appointments for office hours before assignment due dates, exams etc. is discouraged and will be ignored. Your emails need to be short and precise (ideally not exceeding 100 words); otherwise they will be ignored. Also, emails sent on Fridays after 6:00 pm and all day during Saturday and Sunday will not receive response before the following Monday.

2) Every email sent to me about course related queries, logistics should contain the TF in cc. Otherwise, it will be ignored.

3) Office hours are not meant for going over the materials that you missed in class in a lecture style.

4) Queries about how many problem sets would be there will be ignored, ex ante instructor cannot commit to a specific number – it depends on the pace of the course and the progress of learning among students.

5) Email requests about giving extra-credit assignment because you were not able to do well in the exams will not be entertained and will not be answered under any circumstance.

6) Emails for make-up exams or indiscriminately seeking an "incomplete" grade is discouraged and is likely to be ignored. The course offers opportunity to take multiple exams to "spread out" your grade so that any one exam is not "high-stakes" for you.

7) The instructor condemns grade obsession and emails whose ultimate objective is grade bargaining will not be answered under any circumstance.

So, it is quite fruitless to keep pursuing me or the TF to respond/ to explain why we do not want to entertain your grade bargaining type of query.