



ECON 526 - INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS

The University of Kansas
Department of Economics

Course Syllabus

Fall 2018

Instructor: Caio Vigo Pereira

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Office Hours: MW 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (or by appointment)

Office: Snow 337

Place: Snow Hall, 452

Time: MWF 10:00 - 10:50 AM

Course Objectives

ECON 526 seeks to introduce undergraduate students to the theory and applications of econometric analysis. This course emphasizes both the theoretical and the practical aspects of statistical analysis, focusing on techniques for estimating econometric models of various kinds and for conducting tests of hypotheses of interest to economists.

The goal is to help students develop a solid theoretical background in introductory level econometrics, the ability to implement the techniques and to critique empirical studies in economics.

This is a technical course, and the key to success is to read the textbook to fully grasp the material and to practice as much as possible using the problem sets and the exercises at the end of the chapters.

The course also has an applied emphasis. Students should be aware and expect to learn the basics of at least one statistical/econometric softwares, such as R and STATA. Notice, however, that for this specific class/semester primary focus will be given to R.

Prerequisites

- ECON 142 - Principles of Microeconomics,
- ECON 144 - Principles of Macroeconomics,
- MATH 526 - Applied Mathematical Statistics (or equivalent).

Textbook

Required: Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. (2015). *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*. 6th edition, Cengage Learning [Earlier editions are acceptable]

Optional: Stock, J. H., & Watson, M. W. (2011). *Introduction to Econometrics*. 3rd edition, Pearson

Hendry, D. F., & Nielsen, B. (2007). *Econometric Modeling: A Likelihood Approach*. Princeton University Press

Zuur, A., Ieno, E. N., & Meesters, E. (2009). *A Beginner's Guide to R*. Springer

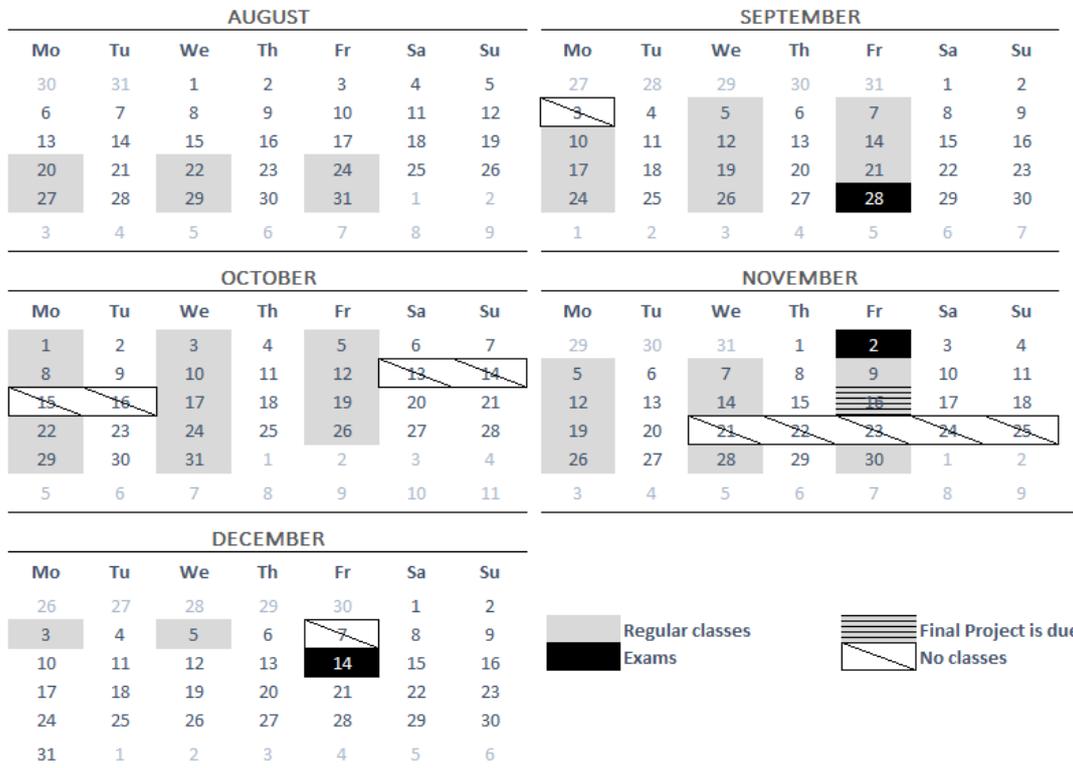
Calendar & Important Dates

Exams & Final Project

September/28	(Friday)	Midterm 1 at 10:00AM
November/02	(Friday)	Midterm 2 at 10:00AM
November/16	(Friday)	Final Project is due
December/14	(Friday)	Final Exam at 7:30AM

Holidays & Breaks

September/03	(Monday)	Labor Day Holiday	No classes
October/15	(Monday)	Fall Break	No classes
November/21	(Wednesday)	Thanksgiving Break	No classes
November/23	(Friday)	Thanksgiving Break	No classes
December/07	(Friday)	Stop Day	No classes



Grade Breakdown

Your final grade on this course will be computed following the equation below:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Final Grade} = & 20\% * \alpha_1 * \text{Midterm 1} \\ & + 20\% * \alpha_2 * \text{Midterm 2} \\ & + 30\% * \text{Final Exam} \\ & + 25\% * \text{Quizzes} \\ & + 5\% * \text{Final Project} \end{aligned}$$

where,

$$\alpha_i = \begin{cases} 1 & , \text{ if no missed midterms or if missed midterm } i \text{ **with a documented reason**} \\ 0.5 & , \text{ if missed midterm } i \text{ **without a documented reason**} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$\text{Quizzes} = \sum_j^n \frac{\text{quizz}_j}{n} , \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, n$$

where, $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and n is the number of not dropped quizzes (please, see “Quizzes” section).

Grading

Final course grades will be assigned following the scale below. This class is not graded on a +/– system.

A	:	[100% , 90%]
B	:	(90% , 75%]
C	:	(75% , 60%]
D	:	(60% , 50%]
F	:	(50% , 0%]

The course will be graded on regular scale of 100%. However, depending on student performance, the grade distribution may be curved in your favor. In that case, the instructor will use a curve based on the average grade of students who actually complete the course.

Exams

- There will be **3 exams**: two midterm exams and a final.
- In this course students are not allowed to “drop” one exam.
- Midterm exams are non-cumulative. Although, most chapters build on previous ones. Hence, to do well on the exams, students should carefully review the previous chapters.
- The subject matter in each midterm exam may vary, depending on the pace at which the class moves.
- The Final Exam is comprehensive.
- Exams must be taken in person.

Quizzes

- In this course, students will be constantly evaluated through quizzes.
- After a topic (or a small list of topics) is covered, a quiz will be administered by the instructor.

- There will be several quizzes. Students should expect to have at least 5 of them during the semester.
- The **two lowest quiz** scores will be dropped. The average of the remaining quiz scores will be used to compute the final “Quizzes” grade (please, see “Grade Breakdown” section).

Conduct During Exams & Quizzes

- All exams and quizzes are closed book.
- The use of calculators is allowed. However, sharing a calculator will be considered cheating and will result in an exam grade of 0 for the students involved.
- If a student arrives late for an exam or quiz, s/he will not be given additional time at the end of the time period.

Policy on Missed Exams & Quizzes

- There will be **no makeup exams**.
- If you miss a midterm exam, your final exam will be worth up to 50% (i.e., 30% from the Final Exam + 20% from the missed midterm) of your course grade after setting α_i accordingly. Notice the following cases:
 - If a student misses the midterm due to a **documented reason**, such as serious illness, death in the family, KU-sponsored activity with required attendance, or religious holiday observance, and has a valid documentation from a doctor or related staff, α_i will be set to 1, where $i \in \{1, 2\}$, referring to the missed midterm (please, see “Grade Breakdown” section). Therefore, the final exam will be worth 50% (30% from final exam + 1 * 20% from the missed midterm) out of the above 50%.
 - If a student misses the midterm for reasons different from the above (i.e., without a valid documentation), α_i will be set to 0.5, where $i \in \{1, 2\}$, referring to the missed midterm (please, see “Grade Breakdown” section). Therefore, the final exam will be worth 40% (30% from final exam + 0.5 * 20% from the missed midterm) out of the above 50%.
- Missing the final exam for reasons different from the above will result in a grade of 0 on that exam.
- There will be **no makeup quizzes**. The possibility to drop the two lowest quiz scores is designed to account for any possible reason (documented or not) to miss a quiz.
- If you are an athlete, who will be traveling on the date of an exam, please notify me of your schedule by the end of the second week of classes.

Final Project

There will be one final project. The goal is to allow students to apply the regressions techniques covered in class to a small database using one statistical/econometric software of their choice. The instructor will assign the project and the details during the semester. Please refer to “Calendar & Important Dates” section for the due date.

Attendance

In this course, there are no points for attendance. However, the instructor may assign any type of in class active, such as bonus pop-up quiz or any sort of bonus question/material/assignment.

Homework

There is no mandatory homework in this course. However, during class the instructor may assign questions that might be helpful to the students' learning process. The instructor will not collect students' work on these problems.

Course Outline / Tentative Lecture Schedule

1. Review of Mathematics and Statistics (Appendices A, B and C)
2. The Nature of Econometrics and Economics Data (Chapter 1)
3. The Simple Regression Model (Chapter 2)
4. Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation (Chapter 3)
5. Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference (Chapter 4)
6. Heteroskedasticity (Chapter 8)
7. Multiple Regression Analysis with Qualitative Information: Binary Variables (Chapter 7)
8. Multiple Regression Analysis: OLS Asymptotics (Chapter 5) [if possible]

Classroom Behavior

To avoid disrupting the class, students should turn off their laptop and cell phones before the beginning of class. Please do not engage in any non course-related activities during class. This is distracting for both, the instructor and your classmates.

Concealed Carry Policy

Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with state and federal laws and KU weapons policy.

Disability Requirements

If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Academic Achievement and Access Center (<http://access.ku.edu>). No student will receive accommodations of any kind without an official form provided by the AAAC.

Agreement of Understanding

It is understood that the student's continued enrollment in this course is an acknowledgment by the student of the content of and an acceptance of the terms of this syllabus.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the rules of academic integrity, specified in the University of Kansas guidelines.

Disclaimer

Subsequent changes may be made to any aspect or detail of this syllabus if and when necessary. Any change will be announced in class as soon as practical.

Additional Notes

Please feel free to contact me with any question or concern you might have.