

ECONOMICS 1620: Introduction to Econometrics

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Weekly Schedule:

Chalkboard Lectures:

Location: List Art Center 120

Monday	11:00-11:50AM,
Wednesday	11:00-11:50AM,
Friday	11:00-11:50AM

Computer Lectures:

Location: Watson (CIT) Center 265

C01	Tuesday	12:00 - 12:50 PM	Mihaleva
C02	Tuesday	11:00 - 11:50 AM	Mihaleva
C03	Thursday	12:00 - 12:50 PM	Nose
C04	Thursday	11:00 - 11:50 AM	Nose
C05	Friday	12:00 - 12:50 PM	Melly
C06	Friday	3:00 - 3:50 PM	Melly

Course Description

Econometrics is the application of statistical methods to the study of economic data and problems. It is used by economists to measure economic phenomena, estimate economic relationships, test the validity of competing economic theories, forecast economic variables, and evaluate government and business policies. Similar methods are used in other social sciences, business, engineering, medicine, etc.

Economics 1620 is the basic introductory course in statistics and econometrics in the Economics Department at Brown. The course covers topics in descriptive statistics, probability theory, point and interval estimation, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis.

The goal of the course is to provide students with the theoretical background and practical skills needed for understanding the existing empirical studies as well as for carrying out their own empirical work in economics. The students will learn how to apply the methods presented in class to real datasets. Furthermore, students will have a greater understanding of the use of statistics that they will encounter in non-classroom contexts.

Requirements

The prerequisites for this course are Economics 110 and Mathematics 6, 7 or 9. No statistics background is necessary. It is recommended to students to take this course as early as possible, as it is a prerequisite for some electives in the Economics Department as well as it may be helpful as a tool for understanding the material in various advanced courses.

Economics 1620 is to be distinguished from Economics 1630. Either Econ 1620 or Econ 1630 satisfies the econometrics requirement for the standard economics or business economics concentration. **If you are a Mathematical Economics or an Applied Math Economics concentrator, you must take Economics 163, not this course.**

There has been an important change in the structure of the econometric courses at Brown. ECON1630 can now be taken as a successor to ECON1620, and we are urging students wishing to take some of the more advanced empirical classes or to write an empirical thesis to take both ECON1620 and ECON1630, although only ECON1620 is required of regular economics concentrators. Some examples of advanced empirical classes are Labor Economics, Health Economics, Urban Economics, and Economic Development. We will try to offer ECON1630 every semester, so that students can take it as soon as they are ready for it.

Course Structure

The course has two components: chalkboard lectures and computer lectures.

Chalkboard lectures cover the theoretical material that forms the basis of the course. They will be on Mondays, Wednesdays and on Fridays between 11:00 and 11:50 AM. The chalkboard classes will be held at List Art Center 120.

Additional to the chalkboard courses, we will have computer lectures, which will cover the application of econometrics to real-life data sets and problems. Please note that the computer sections are not optional sections. The content of these lectures is part of the homework assignments and the exams. The times and the locations of the computer lectures are given above.

Grading

Grading will be based on a set of weekly homework assignments (20%), one midterm exam (30%) and a cumulative final exam (50%).

Homework will be due at the start of the chalkboard lecture one week after it has been assigned. Students who are unable to attend class must submit their homework prior to the class meeting time to EC162 mailbox in Robinson Hall. Answers to the homework will be posted on the web immediately. Therefore, no late homework will be accepted.

Homework will be returned at the start of the lecture one week after it was submitted. Students who do not pick up their homework assignments at the start of class can pick them up in the EC162 box in the basement of Robinson Hall.

Exams:

1. The midterm will be held on Monday October 26th during the normal class time.
2. The final will be held during the final examination period.

No makeup or early exams will be given, except in the case of a family emergency or medical absence confirmed by a dean within one week of the scheduled date of the exam.

Course website

Students will be able to access the course website through mycourses.brown.edu. Homework assignments and answers, practice exams, computer lecture notes and data, and important announcements will appear on the website. Students are advised to check the course website regularly.

Reading

The textbook for the course is:

Statistics for Business and Economics, 7th Edition, by Newbold, Carlson and Thorne.

Note that other books are very similar and can be used as textbook as well. For example, if you already own *Statistics for business and economics* by McClave, Benson and Sincich or *Statistics for business and economics* by Anderson, Williams and Sweeney, then there is no real need for buying the main textbook.