ECON 441/641 Course Syllabus  
Spring 2007

Course Title  
Introduction to Econometrics

Meetings  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15 in MSS 216  
1:00-2:15 in AB 205

Instructor  
Dr. Mark Nichols, Associate Professor  
mnichols@unr.edu; 775.784.6936; 775.784.4728 (fax)

Office Hours  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-3:30; and by appointment; AB 319B

Book  
Includes E-Views software.

Grading  
Homework and Projects 40%  
Exam 1 (February 27) 20%  
Exam 2 (April 10) 20%  
Exam 3 (May 10) 20%  
7:30-9:30 a.m. (11:00 class)  
12:00-2:00 (1:00 class)

Grading Scale  
Percent of all points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92.5-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.5-92.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88.5-90.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-88.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.5-82.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78.5-80.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5-78.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.5-72.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68.5-70.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-68.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>58.5-62.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-58.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students with Disabilities

I encourage any student needing to request accommodations for a specific disability to please meet with me at your earliest convenience to ensure timely and appropriate accommodations.
Course Policies

The exam dates scheduled above are tentative and subject to change. However, every attempt will be made to hold the exams on the days indicated. You are responsible for taking all exams and turning in all assignments. Make-up exams will not be given unless I am notified prior to the exam, in which case an exam may be rescheduled. There will be 8 homework assignments in this class. Late homework will NOT be accepted.

Students are bound by the Academic Honor System. This system is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility a) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the individual's own work, b) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and c) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the University community. While problems of academic dishonesty rarely come up, feel free to bring them to my attention, and I will work with you to address them appropriately.

Classroom Conduct

Your participation in class is expected and encouraged. However, non-course related socializing or talking will not be tolerated. If it happens, you will be asked once to stop. The second time I will have you permanently removed from the course, regardless of your graduation status.

Course Description

Econometrics has been defined as "the discipline in which one studies theoretical and practical aspects of applying statistical methods to economic data for the purpose of testing economic theories and of forecasting and controlling the future path of economic variables" Sowey (1983). With the advent of computers and statistical software, econometrics has since become less "highbrow" and more applied. This course, together with the software EViews, will cover a variety of modern econometrics topics that can be applied in economics, business, and other academic disciplines (e.g., health care, environmental studies, public policy). Specific topics to be covered include ordinary least squares (OLS) regression, model specification, problems that arise when OLS assumptions are violated, dummy variable analysis, time series techniques and forecasting, and simultaneous equation estimation.

Course Objectives

(a) To provide you with many useful examples of applied econometrics and to develop your problem solving and analytical skills. This will have direct benefits in preparing you for other courses and for the job market, particularly where data analysis is required.

(b) To improve your ability to search and obtain data crucial to economic analysts. This will develop your awareness of economic resources available.
Course Objectives (Continued)

(c) To provide you with the tools necessary to solve "real world" problems (e.g., estimate demand, forecast sales, determine the impact of an advertising campaign) that are frequently encountered by firms, governments, and policy makers.

(d) To improve your ability to communicate your understanding of econometrics.

Graduate Student Expectations and Term Project

Graduate students will be given additional, more involved homework problems. In addition, there will be a term project. This project will involve empirical examination of a hypothesis of your choice/interest. Working on your thesis topic, if known, is acceptable and encouraged. You should work closely with me on this project as I will expect an analysis above and beyond what is covered in class. This will be 25% of your grade. Assignments/homework will be 30%, exams 15% each.

Brief Course Outline

I. Basics of Regression (Chapters 1-5)
   A. Introduction
   B. OLS Regression
   C. The Classical Model
   D. Hypothesis Testing

First Midterm Exam: Tuesday, February 27, 2007

II. Model Specification and Violations of the CLRM Assumptions (Chapters 6-10)
   A. Model Specification: Independent Variables
   B. Model Specification: Choosing a Functional Form
   C. Multicollinearity
   D. Serial Correlation
   E. Heteroskedasticity

Second Midterm Exam: Tuesday, April 10, 2007

III. Special Topics in Econometrics (Chapters 12, 15, 13, 14)
   A. Time Series Models
   B. Forecasting
   C. Limited Dependent Variable Techniques
   D. Simultaneous Equations

Final Exam: Thursday May 10, 7:30-9:30 a.m. (11:00 class); 12:00-2:00 (1:00 class)