ECO 4720
Applied Econometrics
Fall 2024

Instructor: Nat Wilcox
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Student Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm; and by appointment (email me to arrange that).

Communication Expectations: Please do not hesitate to email me with questions. I should be able to respond within 24 hours – usually much quicker than that. Don't use the Asulearn messaging gizmo—I never look at that.

Course Description: The goal of this course is to equip students with the basic skills required to (i) ask empirical questions, (ii) conduct associated regression analyses, and (iii) interpret findings accurately. In addition to the basic concepts of linear regression, topics covered will include non-linear specifications, binary variables, and heteroskedasticity. The statistical software *Stata* will be used, but no prior knowledge of the software is required.

Required E-Textbook and Software: *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach-7th ed.*, by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge. The e-book is provided by Cengage Unlimited. We will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 (notice the exclusion of chapter 5) and, if time permits, later material on panel data sets.

Grading: Overall percent scores will be based on exams and assignments:

- Homeworks will count for 40% of the overall percent score. They will be available online in MindTap (just follow the link in the textbook section of our Asulearn page). They will consist of one or more MindTap "assignments." Announcements about the due dates of homeworks will appear further down the Asulearn page along with the slides I use in class for covering chapters in Wooldridge. The first two homeworks already appear there as of this writing.
    - They must be submitted by specific due dates by 11:59 pm (just before midnight).

- Exams will count for 60% of the overall percent score. They will be given online in Asulearn as an Asulearn 'quiz' activity. They will open at 2 am on an exam day and close at 11:59 pm that day. Within those limits you may spend as much time as you like on each exam.
    - Two exams will count for 30% each.
    - Make-up exams will typically not be offered. If you must miss an exam due to participation in a university-sponsored activity or religious observance, you must notify me at least two weeks in advance of the exam day. In case of an emergency, see http://academicaffairs.appstate.edu/syllabi. For an excused missed exam, any make-up exam must be taken before the next class meeting.

At the end of the semester, the overall percent score will be converted into a letter grade based <u>approximately</u> on the following scale:

Percentage: Grade	Percentage: Grade	Percentage: Grade
92.5-100: A	79.5-82.49: B-	66.5-69.49: D+
89.5-92.49: A-	76.5-79.49: C+	62.5-66.49: D
86.5-89.49: B+	72.5-76.49: C	59.5-62.49: D-
82.5-86.49: B	69.5-72.49: C-	0-59.49: F

Please visit http://academicaffairs.appstate.edu/syllabi for university policies pertaining to academic integrity, disability accommodations, religious observance, and student engagement.

It is your responsibility to make sure that you are officially registered for this course. If you are not officially registered, please do not expect to be added late.

Stata is the most widely used econometrics software by microeconomists. I expect you to learn what you need to know to use Stata for homeworks and exams. I will show you how to connect to Stata anywhere you are by using Appstate's online "Udesk" application. I will also spend a good portion of class time demonstrating its use.

On exams you will demonstrate to me that you have learned Stata. How is that? Well every regression-capable software or app computes and displays results to different levels of precision. You will copy and paste results from Stata into a space in an Asulearn quiz. If what you put in such a space is not to Stata's reported accuracy, you will get zero credit for your answer. You have been warned. You must be learning Stata with the rest of us as we go along through this class together.

Stata Documentation and Help:
- http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/
- https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/stata/
- https://www.youtube.com/user/statacorp
- http://data.princeton.edu/stata/

Each MindTap assignment is also preceded by a video walkthrough about Stata's use that does work similar to what you will do in that assignment.