

Econ 161a: Econometrics and Data Analysis

Fall 2007

Instructor: Irene Brambilla

This is an introductory course in Statistics and Econometrics which assumes no prior knowledge of any of the two subjects. The objective of the course is to teach you tools to infer conclusions from different types of data. We will talk about probabilities, about estimation, about data description, and about how to establish causal relationship between economic variables.

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 1pm to 2:15pm. Location WLH 116

Office hours: Wednesday, 11am to 12pm, 37 Hillhouse, Office 36 (3rd floor)

All questions, about course material or administrative matters, must be discussed during office hours. If you cannot wait until the next office hours, you can email me at irene.brambilla@yale.edu to schedule a personal meeting. Please restrict email communication to scheduling meetings only.

Teaching Assistants

Sunyoung Park (sunyoung.park@yale.edu)

Huaming Peng (huaming.peng@yale.edu)

Review Sessions: Monday 10.30 to 11.20 AM WLH 113, and Monday 2.30 to 3.20 PM YK 220

Office Hours: TBA by TAs on first review session

Course Prerequisites

Introductory Micro, Introductory Macro, Math requirements of the major

Required Textbooks

Gerald Keller, "Statistics for Management and Economics," 7th ed., Thomson South-Western, 2005

James H. Stock and Mark W. Watson, "Introduction to Econometrics," 2nd ed., Pearson Addison-Wesley, 2007

The text by Keller covers Probability and Statistics and will be used during the first half of the course. During the second half of the course we will use Stock and Watson, which focuses on Econometrics. Both textbooks are needed.

Class Material

Class material will be posted in the classesv2 server mostly in the “resources” folder

Homework

There will be weekly problems sets including empirical content with real data. Empirical exercises will be solved in STATA. You can use STATA at the Statlab computers or purchase your own copy (there are important discounts for students if you purchase it through Yale).

Problem sets will be given a 30 percent weight in the final grade. The two worst graded problem sets will be disregarded. Joint work is encouraged but you need to submit individual answers and specify who you worked with each week.

Problem sets are due every Thursday at the beginning of the lecture.

Midterm Exam

Date: Thursday Oct 18 at 1pm

The weight of the midterm is 30 percent. See details on final exam for more information.

Final Exam

Date: TBA

The weight of the final exam is 40 percent. Both the midterm and final will be closed-book exams. The material is intensive in mathematical equations, though and you are allowed to bring a handwritten letter-sized sheet with your own notes. No printed material will be accepted. If calculators are deemed necessary, they will be provided.

Make-up exams will be given with Dean’s written excuse only and unless informed otherwise they will take the form of an oral interview. There will be no early exams.

Grades

Final grades will follow a curve with approximately 40 percent of students in the (A, A-) group.