

**ECO 311: Examining Economic Data and Models**  
**(Section A; CRN 18144)**  
**(Section B; CRN 18145)**

Fall 2014

Section A: 8:30-9:50 Tuesday and Thursday, FSB 1006

Section B: 10:00-11:20 Tuesday and Thursday, FSB 1006

Instructor: Jing Li  
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Webpage: <http://www.fsb.muohio.edu/lij14>  
Office Hour: 12:30-2:00 Monday and Wednesday (or by appointment)

Prerequisite

ECO201, 202 and ISA(DSC) 205 or STA261 or STA301 or STA368. A basic course in calculus is very helpful, but not required.

Course Objectives:

This course helps students gain a working understanding of econometrics, which focuses on causality. By contrast a regression analysis course may be mainly concerned with association. After taking this course, students should know how to empirically infer causality by running regression, checking the assumption and interpreting the result.

Required Textbook:

*Introductory Econometrics, a Modern Approach* 5<sup>th</sup> edition by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge.

Web:

I will post course materials at <http://www.fsb.miamioh.edu/lij14>.  
Niihka is used only for posting grades.

Email:

Make sure your Miami email account works. I ask you to be judicious in your use of email to ask questions about the course.

Lecture Notes:

I will write down notes on whiteboard. Please ask your classmates for completed lecture notes if you miss a class.

Software:

We use STATA for this course. FSB has 50 site licenses for STATA, so you will have access to it in the computer labs. I will be providing some instructions on the use of STATA as the term progresses.

### Homework Assignments:

There will be three homework sets, and each set is worth 10 points. The total points for homework are 30. The homework can be either theoretical or empirical. You need to turn in homework by the due date (at the beginning of the class). Late homeworks are unacceptable. From time to time I will give you no-credit exercises, some of them will be done in class.

### Empirical Project:

You need to finish an empirical project that is worth 10 points. I will provide data and you are supposed to summarize data, running regressions to test certain hypothesis, interpreting results, discuss the endogeneity issue and check the robustness of results. The typed project should be less than 5 pages, double-spaced with standard margins and fonts. The topic will be determined by the instructor, and you will know the topic after the second midterm exam. The complete project is on the final-exam day. You need to turn in the project at the beginning of the final exam. Co-authorship is not allowed. I will give you further instruction about the project later.

### Exams:

There will be two in-class midterm exams and a final exam. None of the exams is accumulative. Each exam is worth 20 points, and is composed of several essay questions. The total points for all the exams are 60. You need to bring pencil and calculator to each exam. Cell phone must be turned off during exams. Any academic misconduct will be reported.

### Make-Up Policy:

You will get zero point for a missed exam. Exams will be given only at the scheduled times. Regardless of the reason for missing an exam, no make-up will be given unless arrangements are made prior to the time of the relevant exam. You must provide documented evidence of a conflict that merits rescheduling (e.g. a university sponsored event).

### Grades Appeals:

If you feel that the score you received on an exam is incorrect, you must contact me within 1 week of the date that the score for the exam is posted on Niihka. Failure to check your grades on Niihka in a timely manner will not exempt you from this deadline.

### Extra Points of Attendance

You are strongly encouraged to attend class, although there will be no reduction to grades as a result of poor attendance. I will randomly monitor attendance three times at the end of a class during the semester. If you show up each time when I take roll, you will receive 3 extra points. If you miss only one time, you will receive 2 extra points. Those who miss two times or more will receive no extra points. The reason that you miss a class is irrelevant in determining the bonus point (since it is bonus).

### Grades:

Your final grade will be determined by your points earned from the empirical project, the homeworks, the three exams, and your extra points of attendance. You only need to add up all points you earned.

For example, if a student has the following grades on paper, homeworks and exams, and he misses one time when I take roll

Project: 8; HW: 22, Exams 1: 20; Exam 2: 18; Final Exam: 12

He earns total points of

$$8 + 22 + 20 + 18 + 12 + 2 \text{ (extra points for attendance)} = 82.$$

Letter grades will be assigned as follows (where X is the total points calculated in a way shown in the previous example):

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$$97 \leq X \rightarrow A+; 94 \leq X < 97 \rightarrow A; 90 \leq X < 94 \rightarrow A-$$

$$87 \leq X \rightarrow B+; 84 \leq X < 87 \rightarrow B; 80 \leq X < 84 \rightarrow B-$$

$$77 \leq X \rightarrow C+; 74 \leq X < 77 \rightarrow C; 70 \leq X < 74 \rightarrow C-$$

$$67 \leq X \rightarrow D+; 64 \leq X < 67 \rightarrow D; 60 \leq X < 64 \rightarrow D-$$

$$X < 60 \rightarrow F$$

Please don't ask me to raise your grade to "A" if your total points are 89, and so on.

There is no rounding in points. There is no "curving". There is no set distribution of grades for this course.

### Academic Integrity:

The student handbook states "Students are expected to behave honestly in their learning and in their behavior outside the classroom. Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty undermine the value of a Miami education for everyone and especially for the person who cheats." Cases of academic dishonesty will be pursued to the fullest extent possible. Ignorance of what constitutes academic dishonesty is not a defense. If you have any doubt about the acceptability of any action on your part, please ask me.

### Withdrawal

University Deadline for Withdrawing from Courses: According to the Student Handbook, "a student may withdraw from a course after the first 20 percent of the course and, ordinarily, before the end of 60 percent of the course (see the academic calendar). For the full policy, see [www.miami.muohio.edu/documents\\_and\\_policies/handbook/](http://www.miami.muohio.edu/documents_and_policies/handbook/). The last day to drop with a W is October 27, 2014.

### Some Advices:

This course is tough. Therefore you are expected to study really hard for this course. In particular I have the following three advices for you:

- (1) Reading the textbook
- (2) Coming to class and earn bonus points of good attendance
- (3) Seeking help from me and using my office hours effectively

I will follow closely the schedule as follows. Please mark those testing dates on your calendar.

## Tentative Schedule

Date	Topic	Remark
Aug 26	Syllabus, Review of Math	Appendix A
Aug 28, Sep 2	Review of Probability	Appendix B
Sep 4, 9	Review of Statistics	Appendix C
Sep 11, 16, 18, 23	Simple Regression	Chapter 2, HW 1 is due on Sep 23
Sep 25	Exam 1	
Sep 30, Oct 2,7,9	Multiple Regression	Chapter 3, Chapter 4
Oct 14, 16, 21	Function Form, Residual Analysis	Chapter 6, HW 2 is due on Oct 21.
Oct 23	Exam 2	
Oct 28, 30, Nov 4, 6	Dummy Variables	Chapter 7 (Oct 27 is last day to withdraw)
Nov 11, 13	Heteroskedasticity	Chapter 8
Nov 18, 20, 25, Dec 2, 4	Time Series	Chapter 10, 11, HW 3 is due on Dec 4
Section A: Dec 11, 8-10 Section B: Dec 9, 10:15-12:15	Final Exam (meet at FSB1006)	Empirical project is due at the beginning of the final exam

Advice again: Read the textbook and work hard