



Division of Economic and Financial Studies

**ECON232
ECONOMETRIC PRINCIPLES**

First Semester - 2006

Unit Outline

1. Introduction

The course provides an overview of econometric principles of relevance to applied economic/financial research. The course serves two purposes. Firstly, it may be taken as a general overview course for students who do not intend to take further econometrics courses but who would wish to benefit from an exposure to econometrics beyond the level attainable from ECON141, *Introductory Econometrics*. ECON232 is designed as an intermediate econometrics course for the average economics student who is aware of the need to obtain a moderate degree of quantitative sophistication in his/her economics education. As such students majoring in finance and marketing would also find this course valuable. Secondly, ECON232 is designed as a prerequisite course for more advanced econometrics courses such as ECON233 (*Financial Econometrics*) and/or ECON333 (*Econometric Methods*). Economics/finance students who do not wish to pursue ECON233 and/or ECON333, may nevertheless make use of the background knowledge acquired in this course to pursue more quantity-analysis-type works in both academic and business fields. ECON232 is a core unit for award of a Bachelor of Economics degree.

2. Prerequisites

ECON141 and (ECON110 or ECON111 or BBA103)

3. Lectures

There is one two-hour lecture per week at the following time and place:

Day Class:	Wednesday	11 am – 1 pm	C5C T2
Evening Class:	Thursday	6 pm – 8 pm	E7B 264

4. Tutorials

Wednesday	2 pm	W6B 315
Wednesday	3 pm	W6B 315
Wednesday	4 pm	C4A 312
Thursday	10 am	E5A 119
Thursday	11 am	X5B 039
Thursday	1 pm	C5C 238
Thursday	3 pm	C5C 236
Thursday	4 pm	X5B 136
Thursday	8 pm	E6A 108

There will be 8 tutorial meetings throughout the semester. The weeks in which tutorial groups will meet are as follows:

Weeks 2, 3 (Comp.), 5 (Comp.), 7, 8, 10, 12, and 13

The tutorials in **Weeks 3 and 5** will be held in a computer lab (**E4B 208**).

5. Text

J.M. Wooldridge, *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, Thomson, 3rd edition.

Two copies of the above book have been put in the Reserve Section of the Library.

Students may also find the following text useful for some topics:

- D. Gujarati, *Basic Econometrics*, McGraw-Hill, fourth edition
- R Ramanathan, *Introductory Econometrics with Applications*, Harcourt

Lecture notes that contain lecture slides, examples, and tutorial questions will be available at the unit home page (on WebCT). Students will find the lecture notes extremely useful.

Students are strongly recommended to attend lectures and tutorials because being absent from lectures/tutorials could seriously disadvantage them. The reasons may include: (i) Some important points are not found in the text but explained in lecturers/tutorials. (ii) Errors in the texts are corrected in lectures. (iii) The approaches to certain problems that are recommended by the lecturer are often different from those in a text.

6. Computing

Students are required to use a computer to carry out certain tasks of the course, such as tutorials and assignment. It is assumed that students are familiar with the procedure needed to log on to the Division's student computing network from a computer in the students' computing labs. The software programs used in this course include: *DxData for Windows* and *Shazam*. Students do not have to use *Shazam* to perform their tutorial and assignment tasks if they are familiar with other programs, **but discussions in the lectures and tutorials, and the test and examination questions will be based on output that is produced using *Shazam*.**

It is well understood that there are many other programs that are more user-friendly than *Shazam*. However, the program is used in this course because of the following reasons:

- The set of commands you create are saved in a file and can be read or modified later if needed. This helps you see clearly how variables are defined and how models are specified. Furthermore, you can recall how you obtained certain results weeks or even months after you obtained the results simply by reading through the command file as long as you keep it.
- It is flexible enough to be applied to all possible situations that can arise from the topics of this course.
- It is easy to manipulate data (that is, to read data series, to generate new variables, and to use only a part of the data etc.).
- Its output contains all necessary statistics that are used in this course.
- The copyright arrangement is so generous that students are allowed to install the program on their home computer. (Program CD's will be made available for a three-day loan at the ERIC from the first week.)

7. Assessment

The components of assessment in this course are as follows:

- (1) **Mid-semester test** 15%
A 50-minute multiple-choice test will be held in place of the regular lecture on Wednesday 5 April (Week 6) between 11 am – 12 am for the students enrolled in the Wednesday class while it will be held on Thursday 6 April (Week 6) between 6 pm – 7 pm for the evening students. **Students must sit the test in their enrolled class.** A calculator is needed for the test.
- (2) **Assignment** 15%
There is one assignment that should be submitted by 5 pm, Monday 15 May (Week 10). Late assignments will lose 20 marks out of the full 100 marks for each day overdue. (Each day ends at 5 pm for this purpose.) Students are strongly recommended to keep a photocopy of their assignment to insure against loss.

In early Week 9, tutorial boxes designated ECON232 will be prepared in the ERIC where students can submit their assignments. A list of the students who will have submitted before or on the due date will be posted on the unit homepage and on the door of the lecturer's office (E4A 527) soon after the due

date. So, check the unit home page or the door (or the wall near the door) of the LIC's office for this. Students who find their record in that list incorrect should see the LIC immediately.

(3) **Final Examination** 70%

A two-hour examination will be held during the final examination period. Computer outputs and statistical tables are provided. Only non-programmable calculators are allowed into the examination room. The time and venue of the exam will be organised and announced in due time by the University.

Under the current grading system, a **standardised numerical grade (SNG)** will be awarded together with a band grade HD, D, Cr, P, PC, or F.

It is important for students to note that the SNG is NOT the weighted aggregate of the raw marks for the above three assessment components. It is rather a detailed grade that is chosen from 0 to 100 based on other criteria as well as the raw marks. For instance, the SNG for a student who gains a raw aggregate mark of 55 but fails the test/examination would be lower than 45 indicating that he/she fails the unit.

As such, an SNG of, say, 73 or 74 does **NOT** mean that the student's aggregate mark is one or two marks below the threshold for a D. It means that his/her work and performance in the unit is of predominantly good quality and did better than other students in the Cr band but not quite of superior quality needed for a D.

8. Requirements to Pass This Unit

To pass ECON232, students must satisfy each of the following requirements:

- (1) An overall satisfactory performance in all assessment components;
- (2) A pass in the final examination; and
- (3) Submission of the assignment.

9. Plagiarism

Students are strongly warned against plagiarism. If detected, the marks for **all** assignments involved will be forfeited or/and students involved will be referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

10. Application for Special Consideration

Students may apply for special consideration if they are unable to attend an examination or if they consider that their examination preparation or overall performance in the unit has been affected by unavoidable disruption or misadventure. All claims have to be substantiated by signed **Professional Authority Form**, and if they are based on non-medical grounds, supporting documentation (such as statutory declarations by independent witnesses, police reports, or statements from sufficiently senior officials in the place of employment) must also be provided.

If accepted, in most cases, the students will be required to sit a supplementary examination on a date set by the Division. So, students who intend to be away must take account of this rule in scheduling any travel after lodging the request.

The format of the supplementary examination may be different from the usual examination. To prevent students from abusing this facility and to protect only the students with genuine reasons, **the result of supplementary examination will replace the result of the usual examination if a student tries a supplementary examination as well as the usual examination.** This implies that a student will fail the unit if he/she fails the supplementary examination regardless of his/her performance in the usual examination. If you believe this rule unfairly disadvantages you, contact the lecturer in charge before lodging the request form.

11. Unit Homepage

The Unit homepage can be accessed from WebCT. The unit homepage will be gradually constructed at the above URL over the semester. Students must NOT use this unit homepage as a sole source of information needed for the course. Although the staff will endeavour to place as much information and as quickly as possible, there is always possibility that the information provided in the homepage will be incomplete and/or late. The complete and primary source of necessary information is **lectures/tutorials** and the unit homepage should only be used as a supplementary source.

12. Course Outline

Topic 1: Review

- (1) Review of statistical concepts (**Some** sections from Appendices A, B and C)¹
 - Constants and random variables
 - Probability distribution
 - Population and random sample
 - Estimators and estimates
 - Sampling distribution of an estimator
 - Point estimation and interval estimation
 - Expected values
 - Unbiasedness of an estimator
 - Variance

¹ The codes in parentheses indicate relevant sections in the text by Wooldridge, 3rd edition.

- Efficiency of an estimator
- Consistency of an estimator
- Mean Squared Error (MSE) criterion
- Joint, marginal, and conditional distributions
- Statistical independence

(2) Review of Regression Analysis (Chs. 1, 2, 3, 6)

- Simple (gross) Correlation
- Causality
- Population regression models
- OLS estimation
- Sample regressions
- Interpretation of coefficient estimates
- Standard (classical) assumptions
- Properties of the OLS estimators
- Multicollinearity
- Normality assumption and the sampling distribution of the OLS estimator
- Probability distributions related to Normal distribution
- Central limit theorem
- Measures of goodness of fit
- Analysis of variance (ANOVA)
- Scaling and units of measurement
- Functional forms (brief)

Topic 2: Hypothesis Testing (Chs. 4)

- Equality restrictions and restricted regression
- Single equality hypothesis testing
- Testing the significance of individual coefficients
- Confidence intervals and hypothesis testing
- Types of errors in hypothesis testing
- Significance level and power of a test
- P-value method
- Multiple equality hypothesis testing
- Structural stability test (Chow test)
- Choosing between linear and log-linear (double-log) regression models

Topic 3: Multiple Regression Analysis: OLS Asymptotics (ch. 5)

- Consistency
- Asymptotic normality
- Asymptotic efficiency

Topic 4: Heteroscedasticity (Ch. 8)

- Nature of the problem
- Consequences
- Detection
- Remedy

Topic 5: Limited Dependent Variable Models (ch. 17)

Linear Probability Model
Logit and Probit models

Topic 6: Time Series (Chs. 10, 11, 12)

Nature of time series data
Finite sample properties of the OLS estimators
Trends and seasonality
Stationarity
Asymptotic properties of the OLS estimators
Highly persistent time series
Autocorrelation
Heteroskedasticity in time series

Topic 7: Pooling Cross Sections across Time: Simple Panel Data Methods (Ch.13)

13. Course Diary

Week	Dates	Lecture	Tutorial
1	March 1, 2	Review	X
2	March 8, 9	Review	Tut 1
3	March 15, 16	Review	Tut 2 (E4B 208)
4	March 22, 23	Hypothesis Testing	X
5	March 29, 30	OLS Asymptotics	Tut 3 (E4B 208)
6	April 5, 6	Mid-Semester Test Heteroscedasticity	X
7	April 12, 13	Limited Dependent Variable Models	Tut 4
April 14 – April 30		Mid-semester Break	
8	May 3, 4	Limited Dependent Variable Models	Tut 5
9	May 10, 11	Time Series	X
10	May 17, 18	Assignment due on Monday Time Series	Tut 6
11	May 24, 25	Time Series	X
12	May 31, June 1	Time Series, Panel Data	Tut 7
13	June 7, 8	Panel Data Examination Briefing	Tut 8

14. Staff

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