Course:

Lecture: MWF 10:00 - 10:50 am, Hawkins 132, 08/29-12/16

Instructor: Dr. Razvan Pascalau

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Office Hours: MWF 07:55–08:55am, and by appointment

Prerequisites: ECO110; ECO101 or ECO111; ECO260 or ECO362.


Text: Econometric Software: One of the first required tasks for this class is to download and install Gretl on your personal computer. Free Download is available from http://en.freestatistics.info/stat.php, website that provides detailed instructions for installation.

I encourage you to get familiar with Gretl by reading the "Getting started with Gretl" document.

Course Description:

• This course introduces students to multiple regression methods for analyzing data in economics, finance, and related disciplines.

• Extensions include regression with discrete random variables, instrumental variables regression, analysis of random experiments and quasi-experiments, and regression with time series data.

Course Objective:

• The objective of the course is for the student to learn how to conduct and how to critique empirical studies in economics, finance and related fields.

• Accordingly, the emphasis of the course is on empirical applications.

Material to be Covered:
• Part I: Introduction and Review
  Economic Questions and Data: S&W, Ch. 1
  Probability and Stats Review: Handout

• Part II: FUNDAMENTALS OF REGRESSION ANALYSIS
  Linear Regression with One Regressor: S&W, Ch. 4 and 5
  Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors: S&W, Ch. 6 and 7
  Nonlinear Regression Functions: S&W, Ch. 8
  Assessing Studies Based on Multiple Regression: S&W, Ch. 9

  Exam 1

• Part III: REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF ECONOMIC TIME SERIES DATA
  Introduction to Time Series Regression and Forecasting: S&W, Ch. 14
  Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects: S&W, Ch. 15

  Exam 2

• Part IV: FURTHER TOPICS IN REGRESSION ANALYSIS
  Regression with Panel Data: S&W, Ch. 10.1 and 10.2
  Instrumental Variables Regression: S&W, Ch. 12.1 and 12.2
  Regression with a Binary Dependent Variable: S&W, Ch. 11 (optional)

• Final Exam (Comprehensive)

Exams: There will be two exams and a final. Exams will have multiple type choice questions. No-make up exams will be given unless you have a valid excuse (see Absences section below).

Calculators may be used on exams, but may not be shared. All exams are closed book. There will be weekly problem sets, each of which involves empirical analysis. Students should hand in homework assignments before class on the day they are due. Assignments will be distributed in class or online. Students are encouraged to work with others in the class on their problem sets, but each student must write up his or her answers separately. The maximum group size is 2.
Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Homeworks</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Bonus Paper</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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A  90–100 points
B  80–89
C  70–79
D  60–69
E  0–59

I will be using the +/- scale in assigning final grades.

Absences: Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed to have 3 unexcused absences. For each additional missed class, I will take 1 point off your final grade. A University excuse from a scheduled class activity such as an exam must be presented in writing no later than two weeks prior to the date of the absence. An absence due to illness or family emergency may be excused, provided that you can supply acceptable written evidence if required, and that you notify the instructor as soon as possible. Notification is almost always possible immediately upon occurrence of an emergency. If you are too sick to telephone, you can get a friend to do it. Failure to make such timely notification may result in denial of your request.

Expectations: I expect that everyone will maintain a classroom conducive to learning. I like an informal atmosphere, but it must be orderly. Thus, everyone is expected to behave with basic politeness, civility, and respect for others. In particular, talking in class is ok if it’s part of a class discussion or with me. Private communications are not, especially during tests. Neither are reading extraneous materials, using electronic equipment, or sleeping.

Academic Honesty Policy The Student Academic Honesty Policy will be strictly enforced. This policy states in part: "Academic honesty is essential to the intellectual health of the university and the ideals of education. SUNY Plattsburgh expects students to be honest and to conduct themselves with integrity in all aspects of their relationship with the college (e.g., application, transfer evaluation, academic progress review, and credit and non-credit bearing experiences, including regular course work, independent studies, internships, practica, student teaching, and interactions with faculty, staff, and students). Academic dishonesty adversely affects the educational function of the college and undermines the integrity of its programs. Dishonest conduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, forgery, and alteration of records, along with any lying, deceit, bribery, coercion, or intimidation for the purpose of influencing a grade or for any other academic gain. Action against a student determined to have violated the academic honesty policy can range from a reduction of the grade on an assignment, through failure of a course, to suspension or even dismissal from the academic program, the department, or the college.

Suggestions: Suggestions for improvement are welcome at any time. Any concern about the course should be brought to my attention.