

Econometrics A

Instructor: Azeem M. Shaikh

Office: Rosenwald 218A

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30a - 12:00p (or by appointment)

Class 1: Tues. & Thurs., 10:30a-11:50a, Stuart 101

Class 2: Tues. & Thurs., 1:30p-2:50p, Rosenwald 011

email: amshaikh@uchicago.edu

Teaching Assistant: Benjamin Pugsley

Office: Office hours will be held in Stuart Cafeteria

Office Hours: Wed., 12:00p-1:30p and Fri., 10:30a-12:00p (or by appointment)

Section 1: Mondays, 5:00p-5:50p, Stuart 101

Section 2: Mondays, 7:00p-7:50p, Cobb 102

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Webpage: <http://home.uchicago.edu/~amshaikh/teaching.html>

Prerequisites:

I will be assuming the mathematical background provided in the prerequisites for the class (Econ 20100, Econ 20200, and Stat 23400 or Stat 24400). If you do not know the material from these classes, then you will probably find the class to be difficult. In particular, the class will make use of calculus, basic probability and statistics, and some matrix algebra. Some of this material will be reviewed during the course, but this review will be done very quickly. If you have any questions about the adequacy of your background, then let me know as soon as possible.

Required Textbook:

Introduction to Econometrics, Second Edition by James Stock and Mark Watson.

In the lectures, I will often provide more mathematical details than found in the text. For this reason, you are strongly advised to attend each of the lectures and try to follow them closely.

Grading:

1. Problem Sets (approximately 6): 25%
2. Midterm Exam: 30%
3. Final Exam: 45%

You should feel free to work together on the problem sets, but each student must submit his or her own set of solutions. On each problem set, you must write the names of the other students with whom you worked.

Problem sets should be turned in at the end of class on the date they are due. Late problem sets will not be accepted. At the end of the quarter, the lowest problem set grade will be dropped.

Some of the problem sets will involve computational components. The teaching assistant will provide instruction in the use of Stata during the sections to help complete these portions of the assignments.

Letter grades will not be assigned on any of the problem sets or exams, but rather only at the end of the course.

The time of the final exam is not flexible unless you are a graduating senior and will need your course grade before the end of the quarter. If this is the case, let me know no later than the end of the third week of classes.

Students wishing to withdraw from the class must notify me by email or in person no later than two hours before the first exam.

Students wishing to take the class pass/fail must ask for permission to do so by email or in person no later than the end of the third week of classes. A passing grade will be defined to be a grade of C- or better.

Cheating on any assignment in any way will be dealt with severely. In particular, I reserve the right to penalize students beyond the value of the particular assignment on which they cheated.

Other Information:

Students should attend the class and section in which they are enrolled. If space becomes an issue, I will enforce this policy.

Course Topics:

We will cover the following topics during the quarter, and, if time permits, we may cover some additional topics as well:

1. Review of Probability (Chapters 2)
2. Review of Statistics (Chapter 3)

3. Linear Regression with One Regressor (Chapters 4-5 & 17)
4. Linear Regression with Multiple Regressors (Chapters 6-9, & 18)
5. Instrumental Variables (Chapter 12)

The appendices to the chapters often include important material, so be sure to read those parts of the textbook as well.