

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Economics

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(303) 492-7908  
Website: Desire2Learn  
<https://learn.colorado.edu>

Economics 4848-001: Applied Econometrics, Spring 2  
Syllabus and Schedule  
Office Hours: MW:1:30-3:30  
Economics 14A  
Other times by appointment

Course Description:

This course will teach you to be comfortable with the essential aspects of performing economic analysis on real-world data. In doing so, we will spend a substantial amount of time mastering STATA, a statistical computer software package designed especially for empirical economic analysis. While you will spend some time doing textbook examples, you will also learn to create custom datasets from the US Census for original analysis. Students who successfully complete this course will be qualified to do applied data work for the government, in industry, or in other research/advocacy/policy contexts. The course meets in Humanities 1B45, each

You will receive full STATA documentation in PDF format if you choose to purchase the software. If you expect to use STATA beyond this course, you can feel free to purchase an advanced copy, but the Intercooled version will allow you to complete all the requirements of this course. If you choose not to purchase the software, your easiest access to STATA is at the computer lab in the basement of the economics building (Econ 6) or the Norlin Statlab (Norlin M350). Note that the Economics building is closed on weekends, but it remains open until 10 PM on weekdays. The library lab is open some hours on the weekend with details on the OIT website.

You may find it useful to bring a USB memory stick to copy programs and data from our work in class. It is unlikely that you will need more than 4GB of storage, so you should be able to find one that is relatively inexpensive (< \$20).

#### Requirements and Grading:

Your grade will depend on your performance on a number of assignments, according to the chart below:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Midterm	20%	3/1 (Tentative date, covers material through bivariate regression)
Problem Sets	20%	Various dates throughout the semester (total 5)
Research Paper & Presentation	30%	4/19 Hard Copy First Draft, 5 PM 4/22-5/1 (Presentations) 5/3, 5 PM (Final Draft)
Final Exam	30%	Wednesday 5/8 1:30-4:00 PM

The Midterm Exam

This project has two components. First, you will write a paper (6 pages, including figures and tables) on a topic of interest to you, focusing on original analysis using data from the US Census or another data source. I can provide some help with the census data and, to a lesser extent, support for work with alternative data sets. The first draft of the paper will be due on April 9 at 5 PM (Hard Copy in my office). Any student/group failing to submit a draft of the project will receive a 25% penalty on their project grade. During the final weeks of course meetings, each group will give an approximately 12-15 minute presentation of their work (on average, 3-4 per class meeting). In order to maintain fairness, each group will need to submit their slides prior to class on 4/22. You may revise your slides if you complete additional work between the day you present. The presentations are *required*, but I will not be grading your presentation skills. Rather, you should use these presentations as an opportunity to get feedback from me and from your classmates so that you can improve your paper before submitting your final draft. Failing to make a class presentation will result in a 25% penalty on the project grade. The final draft is due on Friday, May 3 at 5 PM (Hard Copy in my Office).

As we progress through the material, be thinking of the type of project you are interested in. I will schedule appointments to meet with each student/group individually during the week of 4/1 (immediately after Spring Break) to make sure you have found an appropriate topic and provide individual guidance on your projects.

**NOTE TO STUDENTS WRITING HONORS THESES:** *I will accept work on your thesis for this assignment, but the paper and presentation must conform to the requirements of the project. You must work alone if the work you are doing will become part of your thesis.*

The Final Exam will cover all of the material learned in the course, and will be similar in format to the midterm and problem sets. Our assigned time from the Registrar is 1:30-4:00 PM on Wednesday, 5/8/2013. University policy provides students with three or more exams on the same day the right to reschedule exams following the first time. Any student wishing to invoke this right should notify me as soon as possible and no later than February 22. I will ask for a printout of your schedule to verify your eligibility.

Final Letter Grades will be determined based on your cumulative performance relative to the scores a good student at this level could reasonably be expected to attain (including historical performance from earlier semesters). Individual components (problem sets, exams, the project) will be curved separately prior to taking the final exam. The final exam will be held on Friday, May 3, 2013, from 1:30 to 4:00 PM in the Registrar's Office.

toward this policy in the second week of the semester. Students in the past have found it useful to continue working on the same lab computer throughout the semester, so I will ask that you sit at the same computer every meeting. That will allow for quick and efficient attendance taking.

Waitlist: I will use the university's administrative drop policy as a means of clearing the waitlist.<sup>2</sup> My policy is the following: if you fail to attend every class meeting in the first two weeks, I will have you dropped from the course. If you are administratively dropped, you may attempt to re-register, but you will be subject to standard waitlist procedures

Late Assignments/ Missed Examinations Policy: Problem sets and exams will be submitted through the Desire2Learn website. Problem Sets will be due by 5:00 PM on their due dates. Following a 5-minute grace period, I will deduct 1 point from each assignment for each day it is late. Assignments submitted more than 48 hours after the due date will receive no credit. There will be additional incentives to complete exams on time. NOTE: You *must* attend class on the day of an exam to receive credit. The files you send to me will have time stamps, which I use to determine whether you completed exams to the deadline.

If you miss the midterm or the final exam you will receive no credit unless you provide documentation of a medical or family emergency. In the case of a legitimate emergency, the missed exam will be given no weight in the calculation of the final grade and other assignments will be reweighted accordingly. There will be no make-up exams. If you foresee any conflict that will prevent you from taking an exam, please let me know as possible and at least two weeks beforehand.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://registrar.colorado.edu/students/registration/registration\\_packet/drop\\_add.html#administrative](http://registrar.colorado.edu/students/registration/registration_packet/drop_add.html#administrative)



## Other University Policies:

### Disability Accommodation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu).

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website (<http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>) and discuss your needs with your professor.

### Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please, inform me no later than two weeks prior to any conflict you foresee, and sooner if possible, so that we can find an alternative arrangement for you to complete the requirements of the course. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)

### Classroom Behavior and Gender Identity

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and

they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://hr.colorado.edu/dh/>

### Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the 1ins of0fd)