Econ 326 003

Methods of Empirical Research in Economics

2011-12 Winter Session

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Time and Location: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50PM, Buch B215.

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30PM or by appointment.

Course web-page: http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/vmarmer/econ326/

TA: Xiaoyu Zhang, zhangxiaoyueddy@hotmail.com
Tuesdays 5:00-6:30PM and Thursdays 4:00-5:30PM, **Buch B126 (computer lab).**

Textbooks

Wooldridge J.M. (2009): *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, 4th edition, South-Western / Cengage Learning, Mason, OH **(required)**; see also Introductory Econometrics web-pages at CENGAGE Learning and CENGAGE brain.

Course Description: This course is an introduction to econometrics. The main topic of the course is the linear regression model, its estimation and inference. Other topics include heteroskedasticity, endogeneity, instrumental variable estimation, and simultaneous equations.

Econ 325 is prerequisite for this course. Students are expected to be familiar with basic concepts in probability and statistics.

In addition to analytical exercises, the students will receive practical questions requiring handling and analyzing data using statistical software package Stata. Stata training will be given during the first two TA sessions (on January 10 for the Tuesday discussion group and on January 12 for the Thursday discussion group). Many excellent Stata tutorials can be found online, see for example http://data.princeton.edu/stata/.

Stata is available in university computer labs. Stata is also available for purchase at special GradPlan pricing; see http://www.it.ubc.ca/software/mathstat/other-math.html.

Grading: There will be weekly assignments (20% of the final grade), a midterm exam (30%), and a final exam (50%).

Topics:

1. **Introduction** (Ch 1).
2. **Review of probability** (Appendix B).
3. **Simple linear regression** (Ch 2).
4. **Multiple linear regression** (Ch 3, 4).
5. **OLS asymptotics** (Ch 5).
6. **Qualitative information and functional form** (Ch 6, 7).
7. **Heteroskedasticity** (Ch 8).
8. **Instrumental variables estimation** (Ch 15).
9. **Simultaneous equations** (Ch 16).