



CLOs 1, 2 & 4 will be assessed with exams, CLO 3 with weekly lab assignments, and CLO 5 by term paper.

## **M a F a E a**

There will be two midterms and one final exam. Midterm 1 covers Bailey Chapters 1-4. Midterm 2 covers Bailey Chapters 5-7 & 12.1. The final exam is comprehensive (Bailey Ch 1-7 & 12.1) and also covers advanced techniques concepts discussed in class on 6/27. There are no bathroom breaks during exams so please plan accordingly.

## **W A**

Most Assignments are data exercises designed to give you experience using computer software and managing data. In addition, hands on experience with the data will reinforce the statistical and econometric theory and methods and thus help to prepare you for taking the exams. Points on these and other Assignments, announced in class and on Canvas, are easy to earn. Late assignments are accepted for partial credit on a case by case basis.

## **T Pa**

Students will write an original paper on a question of scholarly interest. After developing a research question, and formulating a hypothesis, the main tasks involved in carrying out an applied econometric study include: identifying and accessing cross-sectional or panel data (no time series), formatting the data for analysis, analyzing the data using appropriate statistical techniques, and producing tables that summarize the data and report the results of the analysis. The term paper will also survey econometric literature and describe economic theory that relates to the research question.

By June 13, you will choose a topic, collect data, and write up an outline that contains your project's title, five sections with section names, a one sentence research question, detailed data references, the regression equation you plan on estimating (indexing variables to make it clear what is the unit of observation) and a citation to a closely related publication. On July 2nd you will make a short presentation, using slides. The draft is due on 6/25 and the final paper is due on 7/2.

All papers must have six sections with the following titles: Introduction, Literature Review & Economic Theory, Description of Data, Empirical Results, Conclusion, References. Sections (except the last) will be about five paragraphs in length and each paragraph about five sentences. This "5x5" suggestion is a rule-of-thumb and need not be followed exactly. However papers must have these three tables: Variable Descriptions, Summary Statistics, and Regression Results. Original figures are encouraged; copied figures are prohibited. Tables must be formatted *exactly* as described in class and References *must* be in APA format.. All papers must also write out an equation describing the empirical model. Holian (2014) closely follows this format.

As a set of minimal standards for regression models, all papers should report more than one model specification in Table 3 (the Regression Results table.) One of these specifications should contain at least three distinct variables (e.g. a polynomial specification of one variable does not count as more than one), and one of the variables must be continuous. You should also estimate at least one nonlinear model, i.e. include polynomial, logarithmic, and/or interaction

variables. In the Conclusion, all students must critically evaluate the models they present, and discuss ways to improve them in future work. Any attempts at using advanced techniques (sample weighting, panel methods, etc.) will *ceteris paribus* earn a higher grade, but it is possible to write an A paper using multiple regression with a good control strategy. Finally, students must use data from the American Community Survey (ACS) in some way. Data can be either microdata at the person or household-level, or aggregate; if aggregate data is used, students can

## Rubrics for evaluating Rough Drafts and Term Papers

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