EC228: Econometric Methods  
Spring 2011, Boston College

Professor: Karim Chalak  
Email: chalak@bc.edu

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm, 21 Campanella Way, Office 469

Class: TTh, 12-1:15pm, Carney 206

Teaching Assistants:
Chuanqi Zhu, email: zhucb@bc.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 3-4pm and Friday: 3-4pm, 21 Campanella Way, Office 462B

Shannon Phillips, email: phillsg@bc.edu

Tutorial sections:
Monday 10-11am, Carney 009
Monday 1-2pm, Carney 009
Tuesday 3-4pm, Carney 009

Xiaoping Chen, email: xiaoping.chen@bc.edu

Tutorial sections:
Wednesday 9-10am, Carney 009
Thursday 3-4pm, Carney 009
Friday 12-1pm, McGuinn 030

This course introduces students to econometrics, a subfield of economics concerned with methods for measuring economic quantities and testing economic theory. In particular, the course focuses on estimation and inference within the framework of linear regression analysis.

Prerequisites: EC151 or EC155, MT100 or MT102, or equivalent.


Grading:
– Problem sets (20%).
– Midterm (35%): Thursday, March 17, 2011, 12-1:15pm, Carney 206.
– Final (45%): Saturday, May 14, 2011, 9-11am, Carney 206.

Part of the problem sets will include computational exercises through which students will gain practical experience and familiarity with statistical software such as STATA. Shannon Phillips and Xiaoping Chen will each hold three optional tutorial sections that meet once a week to introduce students to STATA and provide assistance with the problem sets. You are encouraged to sign up for one of the six tutorial sections listed above.
Please check your BC email for announcements. There will not be rescheduled or make-up exams (except in severe emergencies which must be thoroughly convincing and properly documented). Solutions to problem sets will not be accepted after their due dates. The lowest grade you receive on one of the problem sets (which could be zero if a student does not submit a solution on time) will be dropped when evaluating your overall grade on problem sets. You may use calculators during exams. You must demonstrate your reasoning and show all calculation to receive full grade.

**Academic Integrity:** Boston College values the academic integrity of its students and faculty. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on academic integrity: www.bc.edu/integrity. If you have any questions, always consult your professor.

Violations of academic integrity will be reported to your class dean and judged by the academic integrity committee in your school. If you are found responsible for violating the policy, penalties may include a failing grade as well as possible probation, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the violation.

**Course Outline:**

1– Introduction to econometrics and economic data (chapter 1)

2– Review of probability (Appendix B)

3– Review of statistics (Appendix C)

4– Simple regression analysis (chapter 2)

5– Multiple regression analysis: estimation (chapter 3)

6– Multiple regression analysis: inference (chapter 4)

7– Multiple regression analysis: OLS asymptotics (chapter 5)

8– Multiple regression analysis: further issues (chapter 6)

9– Multiple regression analysis: binary variables (chapter 7)

10– Heteroskedasticity (chapter 8)

11– Specification and data issues (chapter 9)

If time permits:

12– Regression analysis with time series data (chapters 10-11)
13– Serial correlation and heteroskedasticity in time series regression (chapter 12)

14– Instrumental variables estimation and two stage least squares (chapter 15)