

# BOSTON COLLEGE

## Department of Economics

EC 228 01: Econometric Methods, Fall 2013

Course homepage: <http://fmwww.bc.edu/EC-C/F2013/228/>

Prof. Christopher Baum ( <http://ideas.repec.org/e/pba1.html> )

Maloney Hall 486, email [baum@bc.edu](mailto:baum@bc.edu) (7x24)

Office Hours: M 10:00–noon, W 1:30–3:30 PM and by appt.

Lectures held in Campion 200, 8:30–9:45 AM

This course is designed to introduce students to *econometrics*: the field of economics which develops the methods by which statistical tools are employed in empirical research. We will focus on estimation and inference in the context of the most widely used methodology, linear regression analysis of a single equation. Students completing the course will gain an understanding of the analytical foundations of econometric analysis as well as acquiring significant hands-on experience with data analysis and the economic interpretation of empirical findings.

EC 228 is a required course for the A&S Economics major. At least one semester of calculus is a required prerequisite (as it is for EC 201 and EC 202, the intermediate theory courses). An understanding of partial derivatives is valuable. EC 228 is the first course of a two-course sequence in econometrics offered at Boston College. The second course, EC 327, Financial Econometrics, is offered only in the spring semester.

Since Fall 2012, EC 228 is now a four-credit-hour course, with three hours of lecture and a mandatory one-hour lab section for which you registered as EC 227. The lab sections involve applied work and graded homework assignments, which will be worth 20% of the course grade. You will be introduced to the *Stata* statistical package, available on <http://apps.bc.edu>, which has been used in EC 151 and EC 228 labs since Fall 2012. We expect that most EC 228 students will have taken the Economics Department's version of EC 151 (rather than Fr. McGowan's CSOM version) during AY 2012–2013, and will already have some familiarity with *Stata*. For those who do not have that background, please consult your lab instructor for additional resources.

**Required text/software:** J.M. Wooldridge (W), *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, (South-Western College Publishing, 5th ed., 2013) and access to the *Stata* statistical package. *Stata* is available to all BC community members via the BC Applications Server on <http://apps.bc.edu> using the Citrix Receiver application on your own laptop. *Stata* may also be used in the O’Neill Library CTRC. Personal copies of *Stata* may also be purchased through the *Stata* GradPlan.<sup>1</sup> A six-month license for *Stata/IC* would be appropriate. Note that Small *Stata* is not adequate for use in EC 228.

**Recommended text:** C.F. Baum, *An Introduction to Modern Econometrics Using Stata*, Stata Press, 2006.<sup>2</sup> On reserve at O’Neill Library.

**Expected background:** (a) Completion of EC 151 or EC 155, Economic Statistics, or equivalent (b) familiarity with the materials in W Appendices A, B, and C, which will not be covered. There are some summary notes on the material in Appendix C on the course website. If you are not fully familiar with these concepts, review the textbook appendix.

**Course requirements:** 35% final examination; 25% midterm examination; 20% graded homework assignments; 20% lab exercises. No makeup examinations will be given. Homework assignments in the lecture will involve both analytical exercises and some computer work. The assignments are to be your own work and will not be accepted after their due dates. You are responsible for familiarity with the College of Arts & Sciences’ policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy/#integrity>

You are expected to attend each lecture, having adequately prepared the material to be discussed. Please help us keep to the schedule by arriving **before 8:30 AM** and getting settled before the lecture is scheduled to commence.

**Software:** The lab exercises and homework assignments will require you to become familiar with *Stata*, a general-purpose statistical package in wide use across social science disciplines. The first several weeks’ labs will provide you with information on the use of *Stata* as needed for class exercises. *Stata* has the same “look and feel” on all platforms on which it runs: Mac OS X, Windows, Linux, and Unix. There are extensive web-based tutorials on

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/campus-gradplan/>

<sup>2</sup><http://stata-press.com/books/imeus.html>; check the Stata Press price if you’re thinking of buying from Amazon or the BC Bookstore.

the use of Stata for regression analysis accessible via the course home page. There is also extensive on-line help within the program, and links from Stata's "search" command to Internet-accessible resources as well. You may submit any questions on Stata use to me via email, which I read and answer seven days a week.

### Tentative Schedule

Meetings	Dates	Material
1	S 4	Ch. 1: Nature of Econometrics
<i>No lectures 9, 11 September; lab section meets</i>		
2, 3, 4	S 16, 18, 23	Ch. 2: Simple regression model
5, 6, 7	S 25, 30, O 2	Ch. 3: Multiple regression analysis: Estimation
8, 9	O 7, 9	Ch. 4: Multiple regression analysis: Inference
10, 11	O 16, 21	Ch. 6: Multiple regression analysis: Further issues
12	O 23	Ch. 7.1–7.4: Dummy variables I
<i>No lecture 28 Oct; lab section meets</i>		
13	O 30	<b>Midterm exam, Chapters 1–4, 6</b>
14, 15	N 4, 6	Ch. 7.1–7.4: Dummy variables II
16, 17	N 11, 13	Ch. 8.1–8.4: Heteroskedasticity
18, 19, 20	N 18, 20, 25	Ch. 9.1-9.2, 9.4-9.5: Specification and data problems
21, 22, 23, 24	D 2, 4, 9, 11	Ch. 10, 12.1–12.5: Regression with time series data
	D 19, 12:30–3:00 PM	<b>Final exam</b>