ECO 772
Econometrics II
Spring 2018

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Time: MW 4:00P-5:15P
Room: WRI C311
Office Hours: MW 11:00A-12:00P, and by appointment

Learning Objectives: This is a follow-up to ECO 770 and is designed to extend the student’s knowledge base in econometrics. By the end of the course students should be able to apply modeling and econometric skills to address empirical research questions. In particular, students should be able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of limited dependent variable methods, common data issues, instrumental variables, and panel data/time-series methods. In addition, students should be comfortable reading and evaluating applied econometrics papers, as well as performing statistical analyses using Stata.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing, ECO 740, and ECO 770.


Evaluation: Students will be evaluated through homework assignments (25%), two exams (25% each), and a series of readings and written summaries of various published articles or working papers (25%); I will choose the papers. The first exam will be a mid-term. The second exam will be a non-comprehensive exam during the final exam time. Homework assignments may be completed jointly, although each student must turn in homework to receive credit. Late homework is not accepted, and make-up exams are only possible if approved by myself prior to the exam.

The written summaries for assigned articles/papers should address the following questions:

- What question(s) is the author(s) seeking to answer and what is the underlying economic theory?
- What econometric method is being used in the paper?
- What data are used?
- What conclusions does the author(s) draw? Do these conclusions make sense?

A 1-2 page write-up on each article should address these questions. The motivation for these exercises is to get you familiar with how to develop and structure an academic paper, which will help you develop your professional paper. Each write-up should focus on the underlying theory and choice of econometric method given the problem being addressed, the assumptions required for the estimator to be consistent, the interpretation of the results, and any shortcomings of the econometric method. An “excellent” write-up will do more than merely summarize the paper; rather, the write-up will offer some independent assessment of the paper’s merits, as well as some suggestions for alternative ways in which the author(s) could have proceeded.

Lastly, lecture notes, problem sets, answer keys, and other relevant information will be posted on the course webpage via WebCampus. Please check it regularly. Finally, I do NOT allow students to do any additional work for extra credit.

Schedule: February 19th, President’s Day; March 26th – March 31st, Spring Break Recess

Relevant University Policies

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or
any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

Copyright: The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright.

Disability Resource Center (DRC): The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, http://drc.unlv.edu/, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy: Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching: The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning

https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency

Incomplete Grades: The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

Library Resources: Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject. UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at https://www.library.unlv.edu/.

Tutoring and Coaching: The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit http://www.unlv.edu/asc or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center: One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with
appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/.

**Rebelmail**: By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Final Examinations**: The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars.

**Syllabus Change Policy**: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.
Course Outline:

1. Limited Dependent Variable Models (Chapter 17.1-17.4)
   a. Introduction to Maximum Likelihood Estimation
   b. Binary Models (Linear Probability, Logit/Probit)
   c. Censored Regression (Tobit)
   d. Count Models (Poisson)
   e. Qualitative Response Models (Multinomial Logit, Conditional Logit)
   f. Ordered Response Models (Ordered Logit/Probit)

READINGS: TBD

** EXAM I **

2. Data Issues (Chapter 17.4-17.5, 9.4, 15.1-15.6)
   a. Truncated Regression Model
   b. Endogeneity (Omitted Variables, Simultaneity, Measurement Error, Lagged Dependent Variable)
   c. Instrumental Variables
   d. Sample Selection Corrections (Incidental Truncation)

READINGS: TBD

3. Pooled Cross-Section/Panel Data Methods (Chapters 13, 14)
   a. Simple Panel Data Methods
      i. Pooled OLS
      ii. Difference-in-Differences
   b. Advanced Panel Data Methods
      i. Fixed Effects
      ii. Random Effects
      iii. Specification Tests
      iv. Dynamic Panel Data Models

4. Introduction to Program Evaluation

READINGS: TBD

** EXAM II **