
School of Economics and Finance

QUAN 203 ECONOMETRIC THEORY FOR ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Trimester 2 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

- John Randal, RH308, phone 463-5558 (coordinator), email john.randal@vuw.ac.nz
- Pian Chen, RH331, phone 463-6770, email pian.chen@vuw.ac.nz

Class times

- Lectures: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:20, GBLT3
- Tutorial: One hour from Monday 10:30-11:20, 12:40-1:30, 1:40-2:30, 2:40-3:30, starting week 2.
Sign up online at <https://signups.vuw.ac.nz/>

Course website

<http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz> If QUAN203 does not appear in your list of courses, please contact John via email, with your SCS username.

Course Objectives

We aim to develop essential background econometric theory (including mathematics and statistics) for progression into third year econometrics, and honours in econometrics, economics, or finance. Assessment will test students' knowledge and appreciation of these key concepts.

Course Content

Below is a tentative schedule for the course. Changes to the schedule will be advised via Blackboard. The main goal of the course is to enable students to be more comfortable with common mathematical and statistical ideas for further study in economics, finance, and econometrics. We intend to achieve this goal by covering the following topics:

Week	Topic
1	Introduction to probability theory
2	Discrete random variables and expectation
3	Continuous random variables and expectation
4	Expectation of functions of random variables
5	Multivariate distributions
6	Conditional random variables and expectation
<i>Mid-trimester break (2 weeks)</i>	
7	To be confirmed
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

Expected Workload

A 22 point course has an expected total workload of 220 hours. Deducting the 36 lecture hours, and 11 tutorial hours, this leaves 173 hours. From this you might allocate 20 in preparation for the exam, and 10 in preparation for the term test, leaving 143. Spread over 11 weeks (weeks 2 to 12), this leaves 13 hours per week.

A suggested way of allocating this time is to spend two hours preparing for each lecture (by reviewing old material and the published lecture notes), two hours reviewing the lecture after its delivery, two hours preparing for the tutorial by attempting the problems, and the remaining time preparing the weekly assignment for submission.

Group Work

There will be no group work for this course. All submitted assignment material must be the author's own work, and is subject to the university's Statute on Student Conduct, which in particular, forbids plagiarism.

Readings

Lecture notes will be provided via Blackboard. We recommend you read these in advance of the lecture. The recommended text book for the course is: Hogg and Tanis, *Probability And Statistical Inference 7/e*, Pearson, and this is available for \$110 from Vic Books. There are also many textbooks on mathematical statistics in the library which do cover relevant material.

Materials and Equipment

A calculator will be required for completion of this course. Any calculator used for the prerequisites of this course will be appropriate.

Assessment Requirements

A two hour test covering lectures 1–18 (Tuesday 8 July to Thursday 14 August inclusive) will be held at 6:30pm on Wednesday 3 September. *This will be worth 40% of your final grade.*

The final exam will be scheduled by the university in the trimester two examination period, 17 October – 8 November. *This will be worth the remaining 60% of your final grade.*

Assignments

Regular assignments will be issued throughout the course. These do not contribute to your final mark, but will contribute greatly to your learning. Submission of them is *strongly recommended*.

Penalties

Late assignments will not be marked.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Attendance at the test.

Communication of Additional Information

Course notices will generally be relayed in class, and put on Blackboard.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office

The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office

The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building on the ground floor (EA005). This counter is the first point of contact for:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the course coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx>

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca> under "Important Information for Students":

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: including the work of others will not be considered plagiarism as long as the work is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html>