

School of Economics and Finance

QUAN 201 INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMETRICS

Trimester 1, 2016

COURSE OUTLINE

Prescription

The course focuses on the estimation and interpretation of ordinary least squares (OLS) regression models. The OLS assumptions and their implications are discussed. The methods learned are applied to real data.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- C1 interpret ordinary least squares (OLS) estimates,
- C2 conduct hypothesis testing following OLS estimation,
- C3 use an econometric computer program to obtain summary statistics, estimate OLS and conduct hypothesis testing,
- C4 understand the circumstances under which the OLS estimator may be biased,
- C5 understand which alternative econometric techniques may be more appropriate in such cases.

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 29th February – Friday 3rd June

Study Period: Monday 6th June – Thursday 9th June

Examination Period: Friday 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 11th March 2016.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 13th May 2016. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks or [online](#).

Names and Contact Details

Course coordinator & lecturer: Dr Jan Feld
Office: RWW 209, Ph. 463-9678
Email: jan.feld@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by appointment

Course Administrator: Alice Fong, RWW 120, Ph. 463-5353
Alice.Fong@vuw.ac.nz

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures:

Monday, 12.40pm–13.30pm in **GB LT2**
Thursday, 12.40pm–13.30pm in **GB LT2**

Tutorials:

There will be eight tutorials on Thursdays and Fridays in **RWW102** and **RWW202** (Railway West Wing building Cybercommons).

You need to sign up for a tutorial group online: <https://student-sa.victoria.ac.nz/>. Tutorial signup will be available from 9am, 4 March until 5pm, 15 March. Sign up as early as possible to get your first choice of day/time. The specific tutorial schedule will be posted on Blackboard. You must attend the tutorial group to which you are assigned. If, because of work or timetable clashes, you are no longer able to attend your allocated tutorial, you must notify the course administrator to assist you to find a suitable tutorial time. To access the student computer labs, you will need to set up your username and password with the Student Computer Services (SCS).

Readings

There is no required text, but I strongly recommend the following book: Wooldridge, J M, Introduction to Econometrics: EMEA Adaptation, Cengage Learning, 2014. Other versions of this book are fine too.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to obtaining an overall course mark of 50 %, students must sit the mid-trimester test and the final examination. If you cannot sit the mid-trimester test the final examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Expected Workload

QUAN 201 is a 15-point course. Based on VUW having designated one point = 10 hours work, the expected workload would total 150 hours: spread over 15 weeks, the expected workload would average around 10 hours per week. This would involve attending lectures & tutorials, plus reading, studying and completing assignments. The 10 hours weekly average may vary for individual students, depending on their previous knowledge and understanding, and their interest and aspirations associated with the course material.

Assessment

The Assessment Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

Mid-trimester Test: **30%** (50 minutes, May 4th, 5.40-6.30pm): C1–C4
Final examination: **70%** (3 hours, during the examination period): C1–C5

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period. The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the following period:

Friday 10th June – Wednesday 29th June (inclusive)

Student feedback

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the course coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the course coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information or information on changes will be conveyed to students through the VUW Blackboard website.

Link to general information

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

Note to Students

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and academic audit. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of VBS programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.
