

## ECON 4318: Economic Data Analysis Capstone Course Syllabus

*University of Texas at Arlington, Spring 2019*

*Course materials can be found on Blackboard: [elearn.uta.edu](http://elearn.uta.edu)*

### Course Details

Course Time/Place: TTH 3:30 – 4:50, COB 349  
Instructor: Christy Spivey  
Email: [cspivey@uta.edu](mailto:cspivey@uta.edu)  
Office Phone: 817-272-1218  
Office: COB 328  
Office Hours: TTH 1:00 – 2:00PM, or by appointment



### Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes

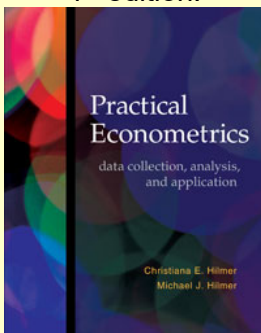
Builds upon material covered in ECON 3318. In-depth data analysis and visualization techniques using programs such as Stata and Tableau. Topics include optimization using Excel Problem Solver, further issues in multiple regression analysis, limited dependent variable models, and causality. Emphasis is placed on applications and hands-on data analysis. Students will complete a data analysis project. *Prerequisites:* ECON 3318

By the end of the semester you will be able to:

- Apply advanced data analysis techniques to answer questions
- Understand the conceptual basis for various data analysis techniques
- Estimate parameters of more advanced regression models and interpret the results
- Use statistical packages more proficiently
- Work collaboratively to contribute to public knowledge through Wikipedia editing
- Conduct a literature review and original data analysis research
- Effectively communicate the findings of a data analysis project

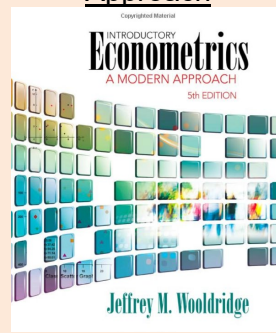
#### Recommended Book

Hilmer and Hilmer,  
Practical Econometrics,  
1<sup>st</sup> edition.



#### Recommended Book

Wooldridge, Introductory  
Econometrics: A Modern  
Approach



#### Recommended Book

Angrist and Pischke,  
Mastering Metrics



### Other Book Options

Introduction to Econometrics by Stock and Watson, any edition.  
Principles of Econometrics by Carter Hill et al, any edition.

## Assessment

Your grade will be determined by four problem sets (homework assignments) and a team project with multiple components. The assessment breakdown for the project can be found in the Project Overview document on Blackboard. The percentage of total points will be allocated as follows:

<b><i>Problem Sets (average):</i></b>	<b><i>40%</i></b>
<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>60%</i></b>

Your letter grade will be determined by the percentage of total points earned as follows:

<b><i>A</i></b>	<b><i>90% and above</i></b>
<b><i>B</i></b>	<b><i>80 – 89.99%</i></b>
<b><i>C</i></b>	<b><i>70 – 79.99%</i></b>
<b><i>D</i></b>	<b><i>60 – 69.99%</i></b>
<b><i>F</i></b>	<b><i>below 60%</i></b>

I do not curve individual assignments or final grades. I also do not offer extra credit beyond a small amount which MAY be offered during the semester. I only assign incompletes in the course for documented health/family emergencies. Please do not ask me to assign an incomplete if you intend to drop the course but forget to do so.

Please use the [grade calculator](#) (not any total columns in Blackboard's gradebook) posted on the HomePage page in Blackboard to determine your assessment progress throughout the semester.

## Graded Assignments

### ***Problem Sets (Homework)***

Most problem sets will require you to manipulate datasets using Excel, Stata, and/or the data visualization software Tableau. All three programs have been installed in our classroom for your use, and some class time will be allotted to completing the computer portion of problem sets. Please see the lab schedule to see when it is open to you outside of class time. You may also choose to purchase Stata at a reduced rate, but this is not required. To purchase Stata, visit the following website: <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>

***You may consult with others on your homework assignments, but you must do your own work and have your own computer output reflecting your own work. DO NOT email a classmate your homework answers or computer output.***

## Project

The project is described in the Project Overview document. It involves 1) conducting a literature review on our topic and contributing to Wikipedia based on the literature review and 2) conducting original research on our topic using a publicly available dataset.

## Course Schedule

There is a detailed course schedule on the HomePage in Blackboard with the topics to be covered, assignments, and important dates.

## Expectations

Treat this syllabus as a contract that you have “signed” by enrolling in the course. You are responsible for remembering all deadlines. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester, although I will try not to do so. Any changes will be communicated to you via email and/or during class. You are responsible for being aware of these changes. Please refrain from asking me questions that can be answered by reading this document.

I recommend printing the PowerPoint slides (several to a page) and bringing them to class to take notes on. However, please realize that the slides do not include everything covered in class and are a poor substitute for taking your own notes. You should read the relevant sections of the text listed in the course outline as many times as needed to feel that you have a grasp on the material. This class requires that you master many skills, so keeping up with the material takes time, thought, and effort. It does not lend itself to all-night cram sessions. However, if you are willing to work hard understanding the concepts, you are likely to succeed in this course. A generally-accepted rule of thumb is that for every hour spent in class, you should spend approximately two to three hours outside of class studying. I want everyone to do well, and everyone is given that opportunity. ***Please ask questions in class and come see me during office hours (or schedule and appointment) if you need further clarification.*** I do not know if you don't understand something unless you tell me!



## Communication

I will post documents such as PowerPoint slides, Problem Sets, and datasets on Blackboard. I will also email you, ***so please check your university-provided email account daily!*** Please feel free to email me at the address listed above. I check email regularly most Mondays-Fridays, but I cannot guarantee a quick response over the weekend or late at night. Please take advantage of my office hours, or set up an appointment with me!

Email is definitely the best way to reach me. If you try to reach me on my office phone, please do not leave a message and expect me to get back to you in a timely manner. I do not check phone messages nearly as frequently as email, as the telephone does not visually indicate that a message is waiting for me. However, feel free to call me, and I will happily talk to you if I am in the office. Phone appointments can be set up with me in advance if a question can't be resolved by email and we are unable to connect in person.

***You can learn  
more about  
me and my  
research  
[HERE!](#)***

## Attendance

At UTA, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. In this course, attendance will not be a formal part of your assessment. However, I reserve the right to take attendance and use that information to give extra credit or when determining whether to "round up" when determining final grades.

Thus, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class and arrive to class ON TIME (I understand there are legitimate reasons for being late, so please enter QUIETLY if you cannot help being late). You are also expected to silence your cell phone. **You are responsible for all material covered in class whether you are present or not (including material not covered in the text). If you miss a class, you should get notes from a classmate and review them BEFORE coming to me for help on that particular topic.** I will not provide you with class notes beyond what is contained in the PowerPoint slides and what is posted on Blackboard.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

## Academic Integrity

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

***More specifically related to this course, academic dishonesty includes emailing your homework answers or computer output to a classmate; representing someone else's computer output or homework answers as your own; and fabricating data or regression results. Violators will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam. Anytime a penalty is imposed the matter must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.***

## **Administrative Policies**

### ***Drop Policy***

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through **March 29 for Spring 2019**. ***Note: I am unable to sign a drop form after the official deadline.*** It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. ***Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.*** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

### ***Electronic Communication***

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

### ***Student Feedback Survey***

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

### ***Final Review Week***

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

### **Student Support Services**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email [IDEAS@uta.edu](mailto:IDEAS@uta.edu) or call (817) 272-6593.

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

### **Disability Accommodations**

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/eos](http://www.uta.edu/eos).

### **Title IX Policy**

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination



Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).

### ***Campus Carry***

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

### ***Active Shooter/Threat Resources***

The following link includes information about making the best decisions regarding your safety: <https://police.uta.edu/activeshooter>. Taking a test, attending class, or getting permission from a professor to leave does not take priority over your safety during an active threat on campus. Your safety is the priority. Follow university instructions or until the “all clear” is given.

### ***Emergency Exit Procedures***

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

### ***Inclement Weather Policy***

In the event that the university cancels class due to inclement weather, any exam scheduled that day will automatically be scheduled during the next class period. Please check your university-provided email account regularly if bad weather is in the area.

***Emergency Phone Numbers:  
In case of an on-campus emergency,  
call the UT Arlington Police Department at  
817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone).  
You may also dial 911.***