Introduction to Econometrics
Econ 243, Winter 2007

Time: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:30-11:35am
Room: SSCI 014
Office Hours: Mon through Fri 1 - 2 pm and by appointment
http://www.union.edu/PUBLIC/ECODEPT/dvorakt/43

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Course description: Econometrics uses data to analyze economic questions. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with basic methods of econometrics and with the mechanics of writing a research paper that uses these methods. We will learn how to describe and compare economic variables and how to examine relationships among them. This course is a key part of the economics major. It will enable students to understand quantitative analyses which are used in upper level courses, and to perform such analyses on their own.

Prerequisites: The formal prerequisite is Eco 12, Introduction to Economics. Informal prerequisites include a strong interest in applied economics and enthusiasm to work with economic data. Computer work will be part of the course, but no previous training in computers is expected.

Readings: There are two required texts: Introduction to Econometrics 2nd ed. by Stock and Watson, and Economical Writing by McCloskey, both of which are available in the bookstore. We will also be using the statistical software Excel and EViews. Tutorials for both Excel and Eviews are available on the course website. EViews software is available in the Statistics Lab in Social Sciences 001, in the Windows Lab in Steinmetz 110 and in Olin 210.

Course requirements: There will be two midterm exams, seven problem sets and a research paper. There will be no final exam. Exams will be open book. You may work on problem sets in pairs. If you do, turn in only one copy of the problem set with both names at the top. For the research paper, you will collect your own data and use it to perform an original economic analysis. The paper will be written in stages. Please refer to the attached guidelines for details and deadlines. In addition, each student will be required to prepare constructive written comments on the papers of two other students.

You should note that learning Econometrics is cumulative. Each topic builds on the previous one. It is therefore important that you are regular in class attendance and in submitting problem sets. The final course grade will be determined according to the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Midterm 1 (February 2)</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 2 (March 5)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Sets</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper (due March 21)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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It is the policy of Union College to make reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your request. All discussions will remain confidential.