Economics 205 **Dr. Gouri Suresh**
Basic Econometrics[1] **Fall 2014**

Meetings: Lectures: MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm in Chambers 2187
Lab for Section C: T 8:15 am – 9:30 am in Chambers 3130 (TA: Nathan Pilkenton)
Lab for Section D: R 8:15 am – 9:30 am in Chambers 3130 (TA: Nathan Pilkenton)

Office Hours: Mondays: 1:30 pm – 4:20 pm,
Tuesdays: 12:10pm – 1:00pm, 3:00pm – 4:20pm, 6:00pm – 7:20pm,
Thursdays: 12:10pm – 1:00pm, and
by appointment

Office (Phone): Chambers 2286 (x2755)

Email: shgourisuresh@davidson.edu

Course Description

This course will introduce you to econometric modeling with an emphasis on applied econometrics. We will explore various elements of sound economic modeling, and you will learn to identify testable hypotheses, gain a facility with regression analysis as a tool of economic research, and improve your ability to understand and assess empirical papers in academic journals. This course includes a lab component which will allow you to become familiar with SAS, a software package widely used for statistical analysis. A significant component of this course revolves around an independent empirical research project that will require you to conduct your own econometric analysis and present your findings in the form of a research article.

Learning Objectives

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

- Explain the purpose, estimation methods, and results of regressions in peer-reviewed journal articles.
- Use economic reasoning and data to construct, estimate, and evaluate econometric models.
- Perform econometric analyses using 'SAS,' a statistical software package.
- Compare different econometric tools and techniques in order to determine their applicability in different situations.
- Apply the process of empirical economic research by conducting a semester-long individual project and communicating relevant findings in an applied econometrics research paper.

Statement on Inclusion

Your success in this class is important to me. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you better understand the materials in this course, and I will try to do it if I can. Having trouble with the concepts discussed in class? Come talk to me! Not sure about solving problem sets? Come talk to me!

Davidson College is committed to insuring full access for all qualified students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or believe you may have a disability) that might affect your work in this class, please contact the Academic Access and Disability Resources Office (Nance Longworth, nalongworth@davidson.edu) as soon as possible. Speak with me as well so that we can collaborate on your success in the course.

[1] I would like to thank Dr. Martin for providing me the outline for this syllabus and much of the course material for Eco 205.

Textbook

- Studenmund, A.H. 2010. *Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide, Sixth Edition*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc.
- If you have a *Windows* computer or an *Apple* computer that can run *Windows* software, you'll be able to load *SAS* to your computer for the semester.

Grading

Laboratory Work (10% of the course grade)

You will attend the lab session for which you are registered. Typically, each session will involve the presentation of new material followed by an in-lab assignment. Before leaving that session, you and the TA will agree on a grade for the assignment based on the following scale.

0 .....Absent.
1 .....Tried the assignment, failed miserably, and will ask Dr. Gouri Suresh or TA questions about it.
2 .....Tried the assignment, completed it mostly correctly, and will ask Dr. Gouri Suresh or TA questions about it.
3 .....Completed the assignment correctly but still have questions about it for Dr. Gouri Suresh or TA.
4 .....Completed the assignment correctly and can work the material on my own.

Homework Assignments (5% of the course grade)

Every couple of weeks, I will upload a short problem set consisting of questions similar to those you will find on reviews. Only one question, chosen at random, will be graded. The solutions will be posted online the following week. I will discuss HW solutions during review sessions. You may use those materials only for your work in this class, and you may not save them at the end of this semester or distribute them to anyone. Doing so would be a violation of the copyright restrictions and an honor code violation.

Three Reviews (40% of the course grade)

Each review will consist of three roughly equally-weighted components: questions very similar to the end-of-chapter problems in the textbook, questions about a professional econometric analysis distributed in advance, and questions based upon a *SAS* analysis completed prior to the review.

Review 1 (*11% of course grade*): **Sep 24**
Review 2 (*13% of course grade*): **Nov 5**
Review 3 (*16% of course grade*): **Self-scheduled during final exams**

Independent Project (45% of the course grade)

2 points .....Initial proposal: **Sep 8**
4 points .....Final proposal: **Sep 17**
8 points .....Model Development: **Oct 6**
12 points .....First Analysis: **Oct 27**
10 points .....Second Analysis as an oral presentation: **week of Dec 3**
14 points .....Poster presentation: **Dec 9**
50 points .....Final Draft: **Dec 18**

The Honor Code is a critical component of life at Davidson. Let's keep it that way!