Course and Instructor Information

NOTE: I may make modifications to the course requirements, grading, and content as the semester unfolds.

Course Title: Information Technology for Economists (ECON 2327 SL)
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Prerequisite: ECON 1200 or both ECON 1201 and 1202; and STAT 1000Q or 1100Q. A course recommended for all students majoring in economics.

Professor: Oskar Harmon

Email: harmon@uconn.edu
Telephone: Cell phone (518) 859-8099
Office Hours/Availability: Monday or Wednesday 10:00 am – 11:00 am

Course Materials

Required Textbook:

None. Required reading on electronic reserve, and videos

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the presentation of economic data and relationships using appropriate computer based tools (Tableau), testing of economic concepts through the use of appropriate computer based tools (for example Tableau, and statistical software you are familiar with including EXCEL), reporting of findings using appropriate computer based tools (for example Google docs, sheets, slides; Microsoft Office: Powerpoint, Excel, Word; Apple: Pages, Numbers, Keynote,; etc). Analysis of time series data such as employment, gdp, inflation; analysis of cross-section data such as: state revenues, town property values, food stamps, sports team performance; and analysis of longitudinal panel data such as individual earnings history, educational attainment, occupational choice. This course is designed to give students marketable skills in core data analysis and visualization.   A key structural feature of this class is designed to accomplish this: the weekly labs focus intensely on a relatively small amount of important topics, and the final project focuses on applying these skills to a research project. Computer lab Monday room 305G, and Wednesday meeting with your service learning group partners.

Course Objectives

This course emphasizes five Learning Objectives. The five specific Course Learning Objectives for ECON 2311c include: 1 Explain core methods in data visualization and analysis; 2 Discuss core service learning topics at a conceptual level; 3 Access data and use computer software analyze; 4 Locate data, format it to be read by Tableau and Stata; 5 Identify and interpret econometric relationships in the data estimated with computer software;. 1 - 4 will mainly be assessed through lab assignments, while 5 will mainly be assessed through the final research project assignment.

Course Outline

Topic 1: Service Learning Project
Topic 2: Human Subjects Research
Topic 3: Stata Assignment
Topic 4: Tableau
Topic 5: Critical Evaluation of Service Learning Project

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Homework	200,000
Service Learning Project	400,000
MidTerm	100,000
Final	200,000
Class Participation	100,000
Bonus Points (1,000 each)	
Total	1,000,000

Class Participation
Outside obligations, work, family, friends, life pile up and can compromise the focus on this course. Please make a commitment to stay in touch with the class assignments and reach out to the instructor at least weekly. Students should read the assigned material before class and be prepared to participate in discussions.

Homework Assignments
The Homework Assignments are designed to give you experience using computer software and managing data. In addition, hands on experience with the data will reinforce the statistical and econometric theory and methods and thus help to prepare you for the final research project. This is especially true given the research project is based upon the skills learned in the weekly lab assignments. A 10 point penalty is imposed on late assignments.

Service Learning Final Project
Locate data, format it to be read by regression software, and develop, estimate and interpret an original econometric model to shed light on a problem of social/economic importance. Your submission must include: 1.) a carefully considered statement of the research question, not to exceed one paragraph in length, 2.) variable descriptions, summary statistics and regression results tables, and 3.) a three paragraph interpretation of the results. In your interpretation, you must critically evaluate your models, based on the discussion in (Stock and Watson) Handout "Conducting a Regression Study Using Economic Data", a copy of which is in HuskyCT. In addition, there are some constraints on the models you must develop. You must present four specifications in your table of regression results. One of these specifications must contain at least four distinct variables (e.g a polynomial specification of one variable does not count as more than one), and at least two of these four variables must be continuous. Finally, you must estimate at least one nonlinear model, i.e. include polynomial, logarithmic, and/or interaction variables.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
93-100	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.7
87-89	B+	3.3
83-86	B	3.0
80-82	B-	2.7
77-79	C+	2.3

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
73-76	C	2.0
70-72	C-	1.7
67-69	D+	1.3
63-66	D	1.0
60-62	D-	0.7
<60	F	0.0

Extra Credit

During the semester extra credit will be given for participation in announced Campus Events.

Due Dates and Late Policy

You are expected to be conscientious about deadlines for assignment activities. Much thought and care has gone into the design of the assignments and their due dates. For the course to proceed as designed it is essential that these deadlines be observed.

Late assignments
Unless excused, a 10 point penalty is imposed on late assignments.

Extension of Deadline for Cause i.e. Excusal Policy
Assignments are be submitted on time, except in case of documented emergency, scheduling conflict, religious observances or participation in extra-curricular activities that enrich their experience, support their scholarly development, and benefit the university community. If you have a conflict, please inform me in writing ASAP before the event and the assignment deadline may be extended. If you can document an emergency that has prevented you from timely submission of these activities the deadline may be extended. Computer problems by themselves do not constitute a documentable emergency unless you can provide evidence, for example from the HuskyCT support team, that you made a diligent effort to complete the activity during its availability but were prevented by computer issues. Unless excused, a 10 point penalty is imposed on late assignments.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research
- Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It
- University of Connecticut Libraries' Student Instruction (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Absence From Final Exam

Copyright

Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Netiquette and Communication

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, The Core Rules of Netiquette.

Adding or Dropping a Course

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:
- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the Student Administration System.
- Non-degree students should refer to Non-Degree Add/Drop Information located on the registrar's website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- Undergraduate Catalog
- Graduate Catalog

Academic Calendar

The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates.

Academic Support Resources

Technology and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

University Counseling & Mental Health Services

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.) The University Policy Statement.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

Policy against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate amorous relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate amorous relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Additionally, to protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report sexual assaults, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking involving a student that they witness or are told about to the Office of Institutional Equity. The University takes all reports with

the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with University officials who can help.

More information is available at equity.uconn.edu and titleix.uconn.edu. and http://provost.uconn.edu/syllabi-references/,

Software Requirements and Technical Help

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through HuskyTech. Students also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.