

NAME OF THE COURSE
ECONOMICS EC2222A-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2024

Instructor: Charlotte Ursenbach
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Office hours: In person Tu 10:45-12:15, Th 11:45-12:15, or by appointment
Delivery mode: In-person
Meeting time(s): Tu 9:30-10:30, Th 9:30-11:30
Classroom: UCC-41
Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4078 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B; and Calculus 1000A/B (with a mark no less than 60%) or Calculus 1500A/B (with a mark no less than 60%).

The antirequisites for this course are Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2811A/B, the former Psychology 2810, the former Psychology 2820E, Psychology 2830A/B, Psychology 2850A/B, Psychology 2851A/B, Social Work 2207A/B, Sociology 2205A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, Statistical Sciences 2141A/B, Statistical Sciences 2143A/B, Statistical Sciences 2244A/B, Statistical Sciences 2858A/B. Students wishing to enroll in higher-level courses in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Sciences are encouraged to consult that department

This course cannot be taken concurrently with or prior to taking Data Science 1000A/B as they will become antirequisites to one another in these sequences.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Description:

An introduction to econometric description and inference which covers: descriptive statistics; probability, discrete and continuous probability distributions, random variables; estimators and sampling distributions; confidence intervals and tests of hypotheses; linear regression. Central to the course are applications of probability theory and statistics in economics.

Course Objectives:

This is an introductory honours course in probability and statistics. The primary objective is for students to learn fundamental statistical techniques in order to be able to analyze and interpret data and statistics, with a focus on economic data. Another related objective is to prepare students for more advanced courses in economics and statistics

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to

- Use common spreadsheet software to perform basic statistical analyses
- Describe data graphically and numerically
- Use and manipulate marginal, joint, and conditional probabilities
- Use, manipulate, and describe common univariate probability distributions
- Construct, interpret, and understand univariate confidence intervals and hypothesis tests
- Perform, interpret, and understand simple linear regression

Textbook(s) and Course Materials:

Newbold, Carson and Thorne, *Statistics for Business and Economics*. 8th edition.

Assessments and Grading:

Assessment	Tentative Date(s)	Weight
Problem Sets	Sep 24, Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3	20% (best 4 of 5)
Midterm Exam	Oct 10, in-class	30%
Final Exam	TBA	50%

There will be five problem sets. Only your best four out of the five will count toward your final grade. Due to the flexibility in this assessment, **no academic consideration will be given for missed assessments**. Problem sets are due **at the beginning of class**. Problem sets submitted during or immediately after class will receive a **15% penalty**; problem sets submitted later will receive a mark of **zero**.

There will be two exams: one in-class midterm and one out-of-class final scheduled by the

Registrar. Missed exams without approved, documented official accommodation from Academic Counseling will be given a mark of zero; **academic consideration through self-attestation will be denied**. If academic consideration is granted for a missed midterm, the weight of the exam will be shifted to the final; if consideration is granted for a missed final, a makeup exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. According to University policy, once a student starts an exam, it is no longer permitted to request accommodation.

Students are forbidden from using any books, notes, study guides, diagrams, communication equipment such as a cell phone, computer programs or software, online resources or websites, **calculators**, or other aids except as explicitly authorized by the instructor in the exam instructions

Computer-marked multiple-choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Graded assessments will be returned to students in class or in office hours.

Tentative Schedule

The following schedule is subject to change. Modifications will not necessarily be announced on OWL as it is your responsibility to attend class.

Introduction to Probability Theory	Sep 5
Probability Distributions	Sep 10, 12, 17, 19
Further Topics in Probability	Sep 24, 26, Oct 1, 3
Cumulative Review	Oct 8
Midterm	Oct 10
Reading Week	Oct 14-20
Statistics, Sampling Theory, and the Central Limit Theorem	Oct 22, 24, 29, 31
Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing	Nov 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21
Linear Regression	Nov 26, 28, Dec 3, 5
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar

Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent of the instructor.

- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

Communication:

Problem sets will be posted on OWL roughly two weeks before they are due. Important announcements will be made in class and posted on OWL. I check my email (address above) every weekday and will respond to student emails promptly upon receiving them. Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments related to the course. If I do not respond to your email by the next weekday at noon, please send a follow-up email, just in case your first email was buried in the deluge of spam I receive at my university address.

Technical Requirements:

Students must have access to OWL to receive problem sets. For technical support, see the OWL help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR FALL 2024

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students cannot self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle

the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 13, 2024**
- Deadline to **DROP/WITHDRAW** first term full or half course: **Mon, Dec 2, 2024**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.