

# **Eco 309 01W #50004**

## **Economic Forecasting**

### **Course Syllabus - Summer II, 2015**

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<b>Office Hours:</b>	Online on hour before scheduled class time by appointment

## **Course Description**

This course meets every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:30 P.M. Central Time until 8:30 P.M. Regular attendance is preferred and class participation will be noted. Log on the eCollege Course Home for live lectures that will cover specific chapters and examples. Online lectures can be reviewed by replay.

Since this is web based course, you need to follow your school emails regularly. You will have regular announcements and uploads posted in the class eCollege website. For each chapter assigned, you need to read your book, make sure you understand the key concepts and apply the concepts using MINITAB. Reading the assigned materials, working the assigned exercises, using office hours, being in frequent communication with your instructor, and checking the class website regularly are very important learning tools

## **Course Materials**

**Text:** *Business Forecasting* 9<sup>th</sup> ed., Hanke and Wichern.  
Pearson/Prentice Hall, Inc, ISBN: 139780132301206

**Software:** You need to rent the student version of MINITAB 17. OnTheHub.com is an on-line distributor of Minitab software. As a student you can rent Minitab 17 on-line and download it straight to your personally owned computer. You will be required to provide a campus e-mail address (.edu) or other proof of your academic status.

OnTheHub.com offers two rental options. Currently they offer a six month rental of Minitab 17 for \$29.99. They also offer a 12 month rental of Minitab 17 for \$49.99. These licenses are for the full professional version. Do not rent the Minitab Express version. To rent go to [www.onthehub.com/minitab](http://www.onthehub.com/minitab) (note do not rent or use Minitab 16 for our classwork.)

You will also need working copies of Microsoft Excel and Word on your computer as well. All assignments must be submitted as Word documents.

## **Course Prerequisites**

Prerequisites include (Lvl U ECO 231 Min Grade C or Lvl U ECO 2301 Min Grade C) and (Lvl U ECO 232 Min Grade C or Lvl U ECO 2302 Min Grade C) and Lvl U MATH 176 Min Grade C and (Lvl

## Course Objectives

Objectives of this course is to introduce the student to the basics of quantitative methods and their application to real business situations as well as the use of current software available for forecasting. After taking this course the students will be able to apply different forecasting techniques to empirically test economic theories, conduct business policy analysis and professionally present the results of their analysis. (For more detail see the Student Evaluation Criteria below)

## GRADING

Grades will be based on 2 exams (25 points each), a project proposal (total of 5 points.), a comprehensive final exam (25 points) and a completed formal project report (20 points). Project proposal and final report must be completed and submitted on time. No late work will be accepted. Plan in advance for the exams: there will be no early exams and no make-up exams. An exam that is missed will be considered an F, unless I am notified prior to the exam and the excuse is a legitimate medical one or officially approved. Regardless of the excuse, if you miss two tests you will automatically fail the class. Again, late assignments and projects will not be accepted. Course grades will be assigned as:

90 – 100 % A  
80 – 89 % B  
70 – 79 % C  
60 – 69 % D  
Below 60 % F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses, you will need to use a current, Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Internet Explorer 9.0 or 10. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - speakers or headphones.
- You also need a:
  - webcam
  - microphone

For ClassLive Pro, headphones are suggested for use with recording and playback. We recommend a webcam with an integrated microphone, such as the Microsoft LifeCam Cinema. All devices should be installed and configured before class begins.

- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. Java can be downloaded at: <http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- You will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - Adobe Reader
  - Adobe Flash Player
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: <https://secure.ecollege.com/tamuc/index.learn?action=technical>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

### **Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log in Information**

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>.

**You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).**

It is strongly recommended that you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the 'myCourses' tab, and then select the "Browser Test" link under Support Services.

### **Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week.

If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- **Chat Support:** Click on '*Live Support*' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) to initiate a support request with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the '*Tech Support*' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You will then be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

**Note:** Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

## Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure **MUST** be followed?

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at [helpdesk@online.tamuc.org](mailto:helpdesk@online.tamuc.org) or 1-866-656-5511
2. Students **MUST** file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and to provide me with the helpdesk ticket number
4. At that time, I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you
- 5.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer/access problems are not a legitimate excuse for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. You are strongly encouraged to check for compatibility of your browser **BEFORE** the course begins and to take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform. **ONLY** Pearson LearningStudio based problems are legitimate.

### Internet Access

An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

### myLeo Support

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at <https://leo.tamuc.edu>.

### Learner Support

Go to the following link [One Stop Shop](#)- created to serve you by attempting to provide as many resources as possible in one location.

Go to the following link [Academic Success Center](#)- focused on providing academic resources to help you achieve academic success.

## COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

### Week of July 13

Chapter 1 Introduction to Forecasting  
Chapter 2 Review of Basic Statistical Concepts  
Chapter 3 Data Patterns and Forecasting Techniques

### Week of July 20

**Project Part 1 (Proposal - 5 points) - Due by July 24**

Chapter 4 Moving Averages and Smoothing Methods  
Chapter 5 Time-Series and Their Components

### Week of July 27

**1st EXAM—Chapters 1,2,3,4, 5 (25 points) - Due July 25**

Chapter 9 Box-Jenkins (ARIMA) Type Forecasting Models

### Week of August 3

**2nd EXAM— Comprehensive (25 points) -Due August 5**

Chapter 6 Simple Linear Regression  
Chapters 7& 8 Multiple Regression Analysis/Time Series

### Week of August 10

**Completed Class Project (20 points) - Due by August 9**

**3rd EXAM --Comprehensive—Chapters 6, 7 and 8 (25 points) - August 12**

NOTE: This outline is subject to change! Check your e-mail multiple times every day, check our class eCollege website and attend the class regularly.

**EXAMS:** Each exam will be online and can be found on our class eCollege website. Each exam is subject to a time limit. You will have to upload your answers to exam problems by the specified deadline. Late work will not be accepted.

**PROJECTS:** You will have to upload your project proposals and projects to the relevant dropbox folder on e-College by midnight of the specified due date. Each submission should include a summary page of what you had done, how you have done it and interpretations of the results. Plots and output without interpretation will be considered incomplete and will not be graded. Please submit everything in Word format, cite and LABEL your variables.

**CLASS AND OFFICE HOURS:** I can be online one hour before class by appointment to address questions you may have. Try not to miss a live class lecture session. If you watch the lecture replays and have any questions contact me for further explanations via email.

## University Specific Procedures

### ADA Statement

### Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this

legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

## **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library- Room 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

## **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*). Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Anyone caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" in the course. All papers will be submitted to "Turnitin".

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citation, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

## Student Evaluation Criteria

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>1(Unsatisfactory)</b>	<b>2 (Emerging)</b>	<b>3 (Proficient)</b>	<b>4 (Exemplary)</b>
Understanding of time series data and components using various statistical and graphical tools.	Student can't demonstrate understanding of the components.	Student can identify some components.	Student can identify most components using most of the tools.	Student can identify all components using all the tools.
Understanding of Regression Analysis and application to both time series and cross section data.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of regression analysis.	Student demonstrates an understanding of some regression concepts but cannot apply it.	Student demonstrates an understanding of the concept of regression and can apply those concepts.	Student demonstrates an understanding of the concept of regression and can apply to time series and cross section data.
Understanding and application of different univariate time series models including but not limited to Smoothing, Decomposition, and ARIMA.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of univariate methods.	Student demonstrates an understanding of some/ all of the univariate time series models but can't apply.	Student demonstrates an understanding of some/ all univariate time series models and apply some of them successfully.	Student demonstrates an understanding of all univariate time series models and apply them successfully.
Identification of the best model from alternative models and obtaining forecasts using at least one software.	Student cannot demonstrate an understanding of the model selection processes.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of 1 out of 3 of these processes.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of 2 out of 3 of these processes.	Student can demonstrate an understanding of the entire processes.