



# **ECO 309**

## **Economic Forecasting**

### **Fall 2020**

**Instructor: Dr. Lirong Liu**  
**Classes: Frisco U138**  
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#### **University policy in regards to COVID 19**

1. A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.
2. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments

**Prerequisites:** ECON 2301, 2302; ECON 302 must be taken and completed before taking this course.

- The best way to contact me is by email. Please put the course number 'ECO 309' in the subject. Missing course number in the subject can seriously delay the response time.
- Attending classes is NOT mandatory. All lectures will be recorded. If you decide not to attend classes, you should review the recordings within the same week. You are responsible for checking your emails regularly. Continuously failing to keep up with the announcements and updates included in emails or lecture recordings can be a sign of lack of class participation.
- Please consult your syllabus and the course page in D2L to see if your questions/concerns are addressed before sending me an email. Please allow up

to 24 hours during weekdays and 48 hours during weekend for me to reply. If you do not hear from me within that time frame, you can resend your email.

- Course schedule included in the syllabus is temporary and subject to changes. Announcements, updates and other information will be released either or via email. You are responsible for checking your emails daily.
- We will have a live lecture every Monday at 6 PM.

## **TEXTBOOK AND SOFTWARE**

### **Textbook(s) Required**

Business Forecasting 9th Edition, Hanke & Wichern, ISBN 978-0-132-30120-6  
No CDs are required; Electronic versions are fine; Other editions are acceptable as long as you keep up with page.

### **Software Required**

- 1. Minitab19:** instructions to access the software will be provided during class.

It is highly recommended that you use Minitab on a PC. If you are a MAC user, you are responsible for making sure that you can run Minitab on your MAC.

You can find useful help topics on using Minitab on a Mac at

<https://support.minitab.com/en-us/installation/frequently-asked-questions/other/minitab-companion-on-mac/>

- 2. Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word** You must also have a working copy of Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word on your computer as well.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to investigate the techniques of the forecasting process as applied to business, finance and economics. Experience is gained in using four popular forecast methods, developing a causal variable hypothesis for forecasting, and in collecting and analyzing data.

## Course Objectives

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop models for forecasting using Minitab and Excel software. This involves the evaluation of four popular alternative forecast methods and deriving the best forecast from among the methods.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability formulate causal hypotheses and to use and forecast appropriate secondary data to forecast business performance.
4. Students will write and submit a formal class project targeted to senior management that includes the results of each forecast model.

## GRADING

Grades will be based on the following components.

1. Exams. There will be three exams worth 100 points each.
2. Project. There will be a 4-part project worth 100 points.

There is no makeup for quizzes. Late submission will only be considered with legitimate documents. 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. Computer issues are not a valid excuse. Regardless of the excuse, if you miss two tests you will automatically fail the class.

Do not fall behind in this class or underestimate the time it will take to do the assignments. You must do the work when it is required. Experience has shown that students have a much better chance of success in this course when all assignments are completed and submitted on time.

All assignments must be completed in MS Word and submitted to the appropriate assignment folder on D2L. Each submission should have a filename with your **last name** followed by your **first initial** and **assignment title (E.g. Class Project)**.

**EXAMS:** All exams will be taken online. Each exam is subject to a time limit. You may be required to download data found in an Excel file on D2L. Late work will not be accepted. Computer issue is not a valid excuse.

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

**A = 90%-100%**      **B = 80%-89%**      **C = 70%-79%**  
**D = 60%-69%**      **F = 59% or Below**

## Tentative schedule

Week	Date	Content
<b>Week 1</b>	<b>8/24-8/30</b>	<b>Syllabus; Chapter 2</b>
Week 2	8/31-9/6	Chapter 3
<i>Project Part 1 (Introduction)- 15 points</i>		<i>Due Monday 9/7 8 PM</i>
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>9/7-9/13</b>	<b>Chapter 4</b>
Week 4	9/14-9/20	Chapter 4
<i>Exam I: Chapters 2-4</i>		<i>9/19 12 AM -9/21 8 PM</i>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>9/21-9/27</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>
<i>Project Part 2 (Chapter 4&amp;5)- 25 points</i>		<i>Due Monday 9/28 8 PM</i>
Week 6	9/28-10/4	Chapter 6
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>10/5-10/11</b>	<b>Chapter 6</b>
Week 8	10/12-10/18	Chapter 7
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>10/19-10/25</b>	<b>Chapter 7</b>
<i>Exam II: Chapters 5-7</i>		<i>10/24 12 AM -10/26 8 PM</i>
Week 10	10/26-11/1	Chapter 8
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>11/2-11/8</b>	<b>Chapter 8</b>
<i>Project Part 3 (Chapter 6-8)- 30 points</i>		<i>Due 11/9 8 PM</i>
Week 12	11/9-11/15	Chapter 9
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>11/16-11/22</b>	<b>Chapter 9</b>
Week 14	11/23-11/29	Chapter 9
<i>Project Part 4 (Chapter 9)- 30 points</i>		<i>Due 11/30 8 PM</i>
Week 15	11/30-12/6	Review
<i>Exam III: Chapters 8-9</i>		<i>12/5 12 AM -12/7 8 PM</i>

# TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

## LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection 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, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

### Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

## **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

# **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

## **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## **University Specific Procedures**

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

## **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

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 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

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.

## **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.