



ECO 309

Economic Forecasting

Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Lirong Liu

Classroom: BA 221

Lecture time: T/TR 11:00 – 12:15 PM

Office: Ferguson 232

Office Hours: Tue 12:30-2:30 PM in person; Tue/Thu 9-10:30 (Virtual)

Email: lirong.liu@etamu.edu

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.
- We will hold weekly zoom meetings every other Monday at 6 PM. You are responsible for joining online class sessions regularly as long as time permits and checking your university email daily. If you cannot attend the live lecture, you should review the recordings as soon as possible and no later than the end of the week.
- 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.

TEXTBOOK AND SOFTWARE

Textbook(s) Optional

Business Forecasting 9th Edition, Hanke & Wichern, ISBN 978-0-132-30120-6

No CDs are required; Electronic versions are fine; Other editions are acceptable.

Software Required

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 business forecasting. This involves the evaluation of popular alternative forecast methods and deriving the best forecast from among the methods.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to formulate hypotheses and to use appropriate secondary data to forecast business performance.
4. Students will be able to interpret results generated by a computer software.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the following components.

1. Academic Honesty Policy: 25 points.
2. Exam: there will be a midterm worth 100 points.
3. Project. There will be a 3-part project worth 100 points.

Late submissions for the assignments will be considered with 10% penalty for each of the days beyond the deadlines.

There is no makeup for the exam. 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.

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. Assignment 1)**.

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

EXAMS: The final exam will be taken online and 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 issues are not valid excuses.

Additional information about the course:

1. Attend zoom meetings whenever possible and ask questions. If there is schedule conflict, you can always email me your questions or set up an online appointment.
2. Do not fall behind in this class or underestimate the time it will take to do the assignments. Start working on it when assigned. Experience has shown that students have a much better chance of success in this course when all assignments are completed and submitted on time.
3. All assignments are due on at the end of the same week after they are assigned. Submissions will be graded within the same week of the deadline and solutions will be provided after grading.
4. A weekly email will be sent every Monday and occasionally emails will be sent during the week with announcements and updates. Make sure you check on the emails everyday.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Date	Content
Week 1	8/20-8/23	Syllabus
Week 2	8/24-8/30	Chapter 3
<i>Project Part 1 -15 points</i>		<i>Due Monday 1/25 8 PM</i>
Week 3	8/31-9/6	Chapter 4
Week 4	9/8-9/13	Chapter 4
Week 5	9/14-9/20	Chapter 5
Week 6	9/21-9/27	Chapter 5
<i>Project Part 2 -25 points</i>		<i>Due Monday 2/22 8 PM</i>
Week 7	9/28-10/4	Chapter 6
Week 8	10/5-10/7	Chapter 6
Week 9	10/12-10/18	Chapter 7
Week 10	10/19-10/25	Chapter 7
Week 11	10/26-11/1	Chapter 8
Week 12	11/2-11/8	Chapter 8
<i>Project Part 3 - 30 points</i>		<i>Due 4/5 8 PM</i>
Week 13	11/9-11/15	Chapter 9
Week 14	11/16-11/22	Chapter 9
Week 15	11/23-11/24	Review
Week 16	11/30-12/6	Review
<i>Final Exam: online</i>		

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

East Texas A&M University is committed to maintaining the integrity and respectability of degrees conferred and course credit earned through our department. Academic dishonesty restricts the understanding of subject material by the perpetrator, distracts and discourages other class members, and reduces the value of the economic signal of degrees conferred through East Texas A&M University.

Whether courses are online, face-to-face or hybrid combinations; the faculty, staff and student members are committed to protecting the integrity of our courses, regardless of the delivery method.

Students are required to electronically sign an Academic Honesty Policy for this course. This document can be found within D2L. **A student who breaches the policy will receive a zero for all assignments. A student that commits academic dishonesty with regards to an exam will receive an automatic “F” for the course.**

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

East Texas A&M University has established standards of conduct to create and foster an environment that facilitates student learning and development. Students and University student groups are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that demonstrates respect for the rights and property of others, and that is consistent with the educational goals and mission of the University. This Code of Student Conduct (“Code”) focuses on personal responsibility and accountability for students’ actions and the impact those actions may have on the greater community. The Student Code of Conduct can be found here:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campuservices/studentRights/documents/Code%20of%20conduct%20in%20english.pdf>

Students are expected to be professional, courteous, and respectful at all times.

OFFICE OF STUDENT DISABILITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES

East Texas A&M University Gee Library-

Room 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/)

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

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution.

Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers. Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version (s)	Maintenance Browser Version (s)
Microsoft ® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft ® Internet Explorer ®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- 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.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed. JavaScript is enabled. Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- 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.

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.

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

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student 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 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

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:

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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.

Statement on Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill – 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 34.06.02R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and or consult your event organizer). 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.