

Econ 2613 - Fall 2018 - Empirical Analysis in Econ and Business I
BAC 234 - MW 2:30-4:00

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Davis, andrew.davis@acadiau.ca

Office Hours: 10:00-11:30, Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment, BAC 344.

Course Description: “This course aims to provide an introduction to empirical analysis in Economics and Business making extensive use of Microsoft Excel. Topics include both descriptive and inferential statistics, culminating in hypothesis testing and an introduction to regression analysis.”

Textbook and Materials:

- Laptop with spreadsheet software of your choice (required)
- Levine, Stephan, Szabat, Statistics for Managers (recommended, any edition is fine)
- Illowsky and Dean, OpenStax Introductory Statistics (optional - not quite as good, but free)

Topics Covered: This serves as a rough plan of attack for the course. Progression will be determined in part by student interest, amount of discussion, and difficulty.

Text	Topic	Week
-	Introduction to spreadsheets	1
Ch. 2-3	Describing data, visually and numerically	2-3
Ch. 4	Introductory probability	4-5
Ch. 5	Discrete random variables	6-7
Ch. 6	Continuous random variables	8
Ch. 7	Sampling and the central limit theorem	9
Ch. 8	Confidence intervals	10-11
Ch. 9	Classical and Bayesian hypothesis testing; p-values	12-13

The immediate question that follows is why you should care about any of this beyond the fact that it is almost certainly a required course. This is an important question. The overriding goal of the course, from my perspective, can be summarized very simply. Suppose someone outside this classroom places a significant amount of data in front of you and asks you to tell them what to think about it. This course is aimed at giving you the ability to give them a good reply. This is an

applied course about manipulating, understanding, analyzing, and presenting real-world data that could plausibly be encountered in a business environment.

Grading:

- Assignments: 15%
- Midterm 1: 20%
- Midterm 2: 20%
- Final: 45%
- Bonus Project: 8%

Late assignments not accepted. Group work on assignments is accepted - pass in one copy per group, maximum of three per group. Missed assignments, midterms (with valid reason) will have their weight added to the final exam. At the end of the course, if it's to your advantage, the weight of the lower of your two midterms will be automatically shifted to the final. Further, if your grade on the final exceeds the weighted average, you will receive the final grade directly, to a maximum of an A. An A+ requires exceptional performance through the semester, not just the final.

Bonus Project: The bonus project is a wholly optional exercise and is not at all required. It is simply an option for students who find it in their own personal interest. Reflecting that this is an applied course about handling real data, the project is simply as follows: find any data you consider interesting and create a report that presents and analyzes it in a coherent way with emphasis on statistical methods. I am open to receiving a report on any topic. Full marks will be reserved for highly exceptional projects - bonus marks are held to a much higher standard than normal marks.

I am very aware this is a vague outline at best. This is deliberate. The goal of the project is to encourage creativity. Investigate whatever you want to investigate. A secondary goal of my being vague is to encourage you to come and talk to me in person about your project!

Disabilities and Access: If you are a student with a documented disability who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Dr. Abu Kamara, Coordinator, Accessible Learning Services at 902-585-1291, abu.kamara@acadiau.ca or Marissa McIsaac, Accessibility Officer at 902-585-1520, disability.access@acadiau.ca. Accessible Learning Services is located in Rhodes Hall.

Academic Honesty: https://central.acadiau.ca/registrar/faculty_information/academic_integrity

Technology Policy: This is an extremely technology-driven class, which is consequently open to abuse given the necessity to have a laptop open for almost all classes. I encourage you to consider your peers in your use of technology in terms of their ability to participate, distraction-free, in the class.

Additionally, both the midterms and the final will require use of your computer, but not the internet. Please ensure that you are comfortable working within a spreadsheet without appealing regularly to search engines.

Important Dates:

Sept. 5 - Fall courses begin.

Sept. 14 - Last day to add/change course sections without a W.

Oct. 8 - Thanksgiving Day. No classes.

Oct. 15 - Midterm 1.

Oct. 26 - Last day to drop fall courses and receive a W.

Nov. 12 - Remembrance Day. No classes.

Nov. 13-16 - Fall study days. No classes.

Nov. 26 - Midterm 2.

Dec. 5 - End of classes.