

***Economics 817***  
***Introductory Econometrics***  
***University of Nebraska-Lincoln***

Summer, 2016  
Online Term 1165

Professor James R. Schmidt

**EMAIL:** jschmidt2@unl.edu. When sending the instructor email, the entry on the “subject line” of your email should contain the course name Economics 817. Also, please put your full name at the bottom of each email. Responses on weekends and university holidays should not be expected.

**INSTRUCTIONAL**

**DESIGNER:** Mr. Greg Sunderman; Instructional Design Technology Specialist; Office of Online & Distance Education; University of Nebraska-Lincoln; 402-472-4290; gsunderman2@unl.edu.

**BLACKBOARD  
TECHNICAL**

**SUPPORT:** The discussion board “Blackboard Questions” is available in the course Blackboard area. Mr. Sunderman will monitor the discussion board and deal with issues/questions concerning Blackboard.

**OFFICE**

**HOURS:** Office hours will be held online in Adobe Connect meetings. Times will be posted in the Announcements section on Blackboard. Instructions for accessing Adobe Connect meetings are in the “Office Hours” area on Blackboard.

**MATERIALS:** Practical Econometrics; Hilmer and Hilmer, 2014 (textbook to purchase).  
ISBN: 978-0-07-351141-2.

Textbook information is on the UNL bookstore website: [www.unlbookstore.com](http://www.unlbookstore.com)

Errata: The textbook is a first edition so there are typos and even some errors. Those issues are inevitable with first editions. Errata documents containing corrections are posted in the Course Modules on Blackboard. Please report suspected typos or errors that are not in the Errata documents to the instructor. If your report is confirmed, the Errata documents will be updated. Please check the Errata documents first before reporting what you may think is a new typo or error.

Lecture slides; Available in the Course Modules area on Blackboard. *The lecture slides are complimentary to the textbook. They are not intended to be a comprehensive substitute for the textbook.*

Microsoft Excel for Windows; You are responsible for obtaining your own access to the software. **No support for applications programs other than Microsoft Excel for Windows on Windows platforms will be available. In particular, Apple computers or software for Apple computers are not supported in the course.**

**OVERVIEW:** Econometrics involves the statistical analysis of relationships among business and economic variables. Models of relationships are proposed, data is acquired, and the models are estimated using statistical methods such as multiple regression and likelihood based techniques. Tests of hypotheses concerning prospective relationships can be conducted and predictions of variables can be created from estimated models. This course will introduce several of the most common econometric procedures and frame their application within a variety of data environments.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Three exams and seven homework sets. Grading weights are shown in the “COURSE PERCENT” section.

**EXAMS:** There are three exams. Exams 2 and 3 each carry more weight in your overall course grade than that of Exam 1 (see “COURSE PERCENT” section). The exams are composed of multiple choice questions and will be taken on Blackboard. *The exams must be taken within the prescribed windows of time.* The composition of each module (chapters, sections, etc.) is shown in a later section of the syllabus. The exams can be taken during the following windows of time (all times are Central Daylight Time):

Module 1 Exam: May 27, 5:00 p.m. - May 29, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)

Module 2 Exam: June 17, 5:00 p.m. - June 19, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)

Module 3 Exam: July 7, 9:00 a.m. - July 8, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)

Exams are open book and open lecture slides. Hand calculators are allowed. Once you begin an exam in Blackboard, you will have a single continuous period of 100 minutes to complete it. Collaboration with other students, assistance from any person, or intentional interruption of the exam period is prohibited. If there is any indication that the exam policy has been violated, it will result in failure of the course. Instructions for accessing exams are available in the “Exams” area on Blackboard. You will not be examined on Excel programming skills. However, exam questions may contain references to, or be based upon, results obtained from Excel and/or third-party “Add Ins” for Excel.

**HOMEWORK SETS:** There are seven Homework Sets. The materials to be completed and directions for submitting them are in the Course Modules on Blackboard. Deadlines (by 11:59 p.m. CDT of the date) are shown in the Course Modules section of the syllabus (below). Each student will have unique (randomized) data files for the computer tasks in the Homework Sets although all students will be working on the same tasks. *The data files for the Homework Sets will be emailed to you as the Modules proceed. Save the files in a safe place and save the email containing them.* Homework Sets submitted after due dates will incur substantial loss of the available points. The Homework Sets have a collective weight of 30% in the calculation of your overall “Course Percent”.

**MICROSOFT EXCEL FOR WINDOWS:** Overviews and demonstrations of some basic Excel procedures, including the “Analysis ToolPak”, is provided in Excel Tips documents that are available in the “Excel Items” folders within the Course Modules areas on Blackboard. Information about any Excel “Add Ins” to be used in the course will be posted in those “Excel Items” folders. **No support for applications programs other than Microsoft Excel for Windows on Windows platforms will be available. In particular, Apple computers or software for Apple computers are not supported in the course.**

**COURSE PERCENT:** Your letter grade for the course will be based upon your “Course Percent”, calculated as:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Course Percent} &= (\text{Exam 1 percent}) \times .20 \\ &+ (\text{Exam 2 percent}) \times .25 \\ &+ (\text{Exam 3 percent}) \times .25 \\ &+ (\text{Highest percent on Exam 2 or Exam 3}) \times .03 \\ &+ (\text{Homework Sets percent}) \times .30. \end{aligned}$$

**COURSE GRADES:** The course scale translating “Course Percent” into letter grades is shown below.

**Course Scale based on Course Percent**

98 - 100	A+	76 - 77	C+
90 - 97	A	68 - 75	C
88 - 89	A-	66 - 67	C-
86 - 87	B+	64 - 65	D+
80 - 85	B	56 - 63	D
78 - 79	B-	54 - 55	D-

The rounding convention used in the scale is illustrated by: 84.50 rounds up to 85, 84.49 rounds down to 84.

**COURSE MODULES - Readings, Practice Problems, Practice Exercises, Homework Sets, Dates**

Suggested problems and exercises (at end of chapters) are not to be handed in. They are for your practice. Solutions are available in the Course Modules. Reference material for basic statistics is available in Chapter 3 (refer to as needed).

**MODULE 1**

**Chapter 1.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 1.1-1.3  
Lecture slides

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**Chapter 2.**

Readings: Page 12 through middle of page 16.  
Suggested problems: 2.1  
Suggested exercises: none  
Lecture slides

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**Chapter 3.**

Readings: Page 58 through middle of page 63.  
Suggested problems: 3.9-3.11  
Suggested exercises: none  
Lecture slides

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**Chapter 4.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 4.1-4.7  
Suggested exercises: E4.1-E4.4  
Lecture slides

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**Chapter 5.**

Readings: All pages and also Appendix 5A.  
Suggested problems: 5.1-5.15  
Suggested exercises: E5.1-E5.6 (except E5.2.a)  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 1: (found in Module 1 area) Due date: **Sunday, May 29**

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**Module 1 Exam: May 27, 5:00 p.m. - May 29, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)  
(times are CDT)**

**MODULE 2**

**Chapter 6.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 6.1-6.11  
Suggested exercises: E6.1-E6.3  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 2: (found in Module 2 area) Due date: **Sunday, June 5**

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**Chapter 7.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 7.1-7.7  
Suggested exercises: E7.1-E7.7  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 3: (found in Module 2 area) Due date: **Sunday, June 12**

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**Chapter 8.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 8.1-8.5  
Suggested exercises: E8.1-E8.5  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 4: (found in Module 2 area) Due date: **Sunday, June 19**

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**Module 2 Exam: June 17, 5:00 p.m. - June 19, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)  
(times are CDT)**

**MODULE 3**

**Chapter 9.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 9.1-9.5  
Suggested exercises: E9.1-E9.5  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 5: (found in Module 3 area) Due date: **Sunday, June 26**

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**Chapter 12.**

Readings: Page 345 through middle of page 358.  
Suggested problems: 12.1,12.3,12.4  
Suggested exercises: E12.1,E12.2  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 6: (found in Module 3 area) Due date: **Sunday, July 3**

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**Chapter 10.**

Readings: All pages.  
Suggested problems: 10.1-10.7  
Suggested exercises: E10.1-E10.7  
Lecture slides

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Homework Set 7: (found in Module 3 area) Due date: **Friday, July 8**

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**Chapter 11.**

Readings: Page 313 through page 335.  
Suggested problems: 11.1-11.4  
Suggested exercises: E11.1-E11.4  
Lecture slides

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**Module 3 Exam: July 7, 9:00 a.m. - July 8, 11:00 p.m. (deadline for completion, not for starting)  
(times are CDT)**

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** Every person is expected to adhere to UNL's non-discrimination policy, which states the following: "The University of Nebraska-Lincoln reaffirms its desire to create an environment for all students and employees that is fair and responsible--an environment where distinctions are made on the basis of ability and performance. To that end, it is the policy of UNL to administer all of its educational and employment programs and related supporting services in a manner which does not discriminate because of an individual's gender, age, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or political affiliation". Students are advised that neither the Economics Department nor the College of Business Administration will tolerate violations of UNL's Non-discrimination Policy in this course. Any such concerns or complaints may be discussed with the course instructor, the department chair, a college dean, or the Office for Equity Access and Diversity Programs.

**INSTRUCTOR:** James R. Schmidt is the James W. and Helen A. Hanson Professor of Economics in the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Professor Schmidt has taught econometrics and business statistics courses at UNL for over 25 years. Professor Schmidt is a three-time recipient of UNL's Distinguished Teaching Award and has also been recognized by UNL's Parents Association for his contributions to students. Professor Schmidt has served on the thesis and dissertation committees of over 100 graduate students.

Academic Integrity:  
UNL-CBA Faculty-Approved Policy

CBA POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Per the UNL Student Code of Conduct: "The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions."

A. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: Copying or attempting to copy from an academic test or examination of another student; using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices for an academic test, examination or exercise; engaging or attempting to engage the assistance of another individual in misrepresenting the academic performance of a student; communicating information in an unauthorized manner to another person for an academic test, examination or exercise; plagiarism; tampering with academic records and examinations; falsifying identity; aiding other students in academic dishonesty, and other behaviors in the student judicial code of conduct, Article III section B ([stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code](http://stuafs.unl.edu/dos/code))

B. The penalties for academic dishonesty will be severe, and may range from receiving a failing grade on the test or assignment, failing the course in which academic dishonesty took place, or the possibility of expulsion from the university. Faculty will report all cases of academic dishonesty to the Dean of Students at UNL, who will place a report in the student's permanent file. A file of academic integrity violations will also be maintained by the College of Business.