ECONOMICS 4818
Introduction to Econometrics
<u>Spring 2016</u>

Instructor: Billy Mertens
Office: ECON 12
E-mail: mertens@colorado.edu

Text:
Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach, (4th or later edition) by Jeffery M. Wooldridge. The text in the 4th edition is nearly identical to the 5th edition, but some practice problems are missing in the old editions. The text is important, as I will follow it closely. Keep up with the readings. It is essential for success in this class.

A Note on Learning Systems and Assessments:
This course is a little more traditional than many of the other classes I teach. Lecture is still the primary component, but group assignments and discussions are taking on a slightly larger role. One of the most important changes from prior semesters is that all exams will be cumulative, and we will spend at least a little time reviewing for each exam. A little more detail on these systems is given below:

Learning systems:
1. Lecturing: explaining difficult material not easily learned on your own with text, groups, etc.
2. Exams: exams should be learning tools as well as assessment tools! We will go over each exam in depth in class. Reviewing exams is one area where in-class discussion and explanation are most effective. Just reading answers on a key has been shown to be one of the worst ways to learn material. Therefore, exam reviews will be the one area of class where no notes, associated pictures or keys will be posted.
3. Group scholarship: we will work some practice problems in groups, which can help your understanding of the material whether you already understand it fairly well, or are struggling a bit. These cooperative learning exercises are extremely helpful in preparing you to

Exams:
There will be three cumulative exams and a cumulative final. Tests will consist of short-answer questions and some longer problems. The exams will all be cumulative, and the material does build on itself so it is important to understand all of the concepts as we go. **Exams will be given in class on the days listed. If you miss an exam with a valid excuse (e.g. a note from your doctor or Wardenburg), then the weight of your final will be increased. Undocumented illnesses do not count as valid excuses (as long as this is not in conflict with a University policy). Note that the exam dates below are <u>not</u> tentative – exams will be given in class on the days listed. NO EXAMS Will Be DROPPED!!**

Exam Schedule:
Exam I: Thursday, February 11th
Exam II: Thursday, March 10th
Exam III: April, March 12th
Final exam: Sunday, May 2nd 4:30 – 7:00pm in our usual room.

Final Exam Conflicts:
Official University Policy states that: If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the <u>last</u> exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with your instructor no later than the end of the tenth week of the semester. **It is actually <u>not</u> possible for ours to be the third exam on the day of our final, so <u>no</u> alternate exams will be offered for this reason.**

Exams and Grading:

In-class group problems	10%
Exam I (Thursday 2/11)	19%
Exam II (Tuesday 3/10)	21

Grading Scale:

Your Score	Grade
92% to 100%	A
90% to 91%	A-
88% to 89%	B+
82% to 87%	B
80% to 81%	B-
78% to 79%	C+
72% to 77%	C
70% to 71%	C-
68% to 69%	D+
62% to 67%	D
60% to 61%	D-

Tentative Course Outline (Text chapters are in parentheses):
1. Review of Mathematics and Statistics (Appendices A, B and C)
2. The Simple Regression Model (Ch. 2)
3. Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation (Ch. 3)
Exam 1

4. Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation (Ch. 3)
5. Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference (Ch. 4)
6. Multiple Regression Analysis: OLS Asymptotics (Ch. 5)
Exam 2

8. Multiple Regression Analysis: Further Issues (Ch. 6)
9. Multiple Regression Analysis with Qualitative Information: Binary Variables (Ch. 7)
10. Heteroskedasticity (Ch. 8)
Exam 3

A more detailed outline of covered material is posted separately.

Additional Notes:
Honor Code
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at
http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode

Disabilities
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu.

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious holidays
A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students can be found at http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/ Review this list and the class syllabus. After reviewing the syllabus, please see the instructor if you believe that you need an accommodation for religious reasons. The instructor should be notified within the first two weeks of classes. Campus policy regarding religious observances states that faculty must make *reasonable* accommodation for them and in so doing, be careful not to inhibit or penalize those students who are exercising their rights to religious observance. For more information see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Code of Behavior
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html   and at