

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics
Winter 2025

AP/ECON3210 3.0M – Use of Economic Data

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Office hours: Monday 10:30am-11:20am
Class time and location: Monday 11:30am-2:30pm; CLH G
Course website: <http://eclass.yorku.ca/>

Course Description

Introduces the theory and practice of empirical analysis of economic models. Develops tools to estimate economic relationships involving two or more variables and to test their significance. Relies on the use of Canadian data sets and statistical software packages to show how linear regression analysis is applied.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON2500 3.00 or equivalent. Note: No credit will be retained for this course for students who have successfully completed or who are currently enrolled in AP/ECON 4210 3.00.

Course credit exclusions: HH/PSYC 3030 6.00, SC/MATH 3330 3.00. Note: Acceptable course substitutes are available in the Calendar. PRIOR TO FALL 2009: Course credit exclusions: SC/BIOL 2060 3.00, AK/AS/ECON 3210 3.00, AK/AS/SC/MATH 3033 3.00, AS/SC/MATH 3330 3.00.

Required Course Textbook

Wooldridge, Jeffery M., Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach 7th Edition.
Cengage Learning.

The **e-book version** (and a few print copies) is available from the university's bookstore. It is bundled with the MindTap access code, which is optional but **highly recommended**. I will assign plenty of extra practice questions using MindTap's interactive software. Students have found these questions very helpful in the past. More details about MindTap will be provided in the first few weeks of class. While the complementary MindTap software is optional, graded assignments will come from the textbook questions, so having access to the textbook is required.

Course Breakdown

The final course grade will consist of three assignments, one midterm exam, and a final exam, according to the following breakdown (with one exception noted below):

Evaluation	Date	Weight of Final Grade
Assignment 1	To be announced in class	5%
Assignment 2	To be announced in class	5%
Assignment 3	To be announced in class	5%
Midterm Exam	Monday, February 10, 2025	35%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the University	50%

The grading scheme in the table above is the baseline grading scheme. If, however, a student scores higher on the final exam than on the midterm, I will shift 50% of the weight of the midterm toward the final exam. Therefore, for students who score higher on the final exam than on the midterm exam, their grade will be determined as follows:

Evaluation	Date	Weight of Final Grade
Assignment 1	To be announced in class	5%
Assignment 2	To be announced in class	5%
Assignment 3	To be announced in class	5%
Midterm Exam	Monday, February 10, 2025	17.5%
Final Exam	To be scheduled by the University	67.5%

All exams are closed-book exams. The midterm exam will cover approximately the first half of the course and the final exam will cover the entire course, although with more emphasis on the second half of the course.

Exams must be taken by all students at the scheduled time. **There is NO make-up exam for a missed midterm exam.** If a student misses the midterm exam, the weight of the midterm exam will be transferred to final exam only if the student missed the midterm for a legitimate reason (e.g., illness or injury, death in the family) and can provide detailed documentation of this reason as required by the department. If a student misses the midterm and fails to meet these requirements, they will receive a grade of zero on the midterm. **When the midterm exam is missed with a valid reason and the associated documentation is provided, the weight of the final exam will be 85%.** There will be no deferred standing agreements. This means that students missing the final exam must petition following the corresponding administrative procedures as established by the faculty.

Homework Assignments

The homework assignments will include a combination of data work using statistical software packages and theoretical (pen and paper) work. Students are strongly encouraged to attempt all the homework questions. Not only do the assignments count toward the course grade, but learning statistics requires working through difficult ideas and getting your hands dirty with data analyses. There is no way around this. Please complete all assignments to the best of your ability and ask a question when something is unclear.

No assignments will be accepted after the due date, unless proof of the legitimate reason that caused delay is provided. If a student does not provide detailed documentation of the reason, a grade of zero will be assigned to the late assignment.

Please note: having access to the course textbook is required for completing the homework. Access to the MindTap software that complements the book is recommended but not strictly required.

Regrade Policy

For both assignments and the midterm exam, students who wish to request a regrade must do so within

one week from the day the assignment or the midterm is returned to the class, regardless of when the student receives his or her assignment or midterm. If a student finds a problem with the grading of a problem set, she/he should inform the TA immediately. If a student finds a problem with the grading of the midterm exam, she/he should inform the course instructor immediately. When requesting a regrade, the student should submit a clear, concise note, explaining which question she/he would like regraded and why, making clear reference to how her/his answer compares to the correct solution.

If an assignment or the midterm is submitted for a regrade, the entire assignment or midterm will be regraded, not just the question(s) that is (are) of interest. This means the overall grade on the evaluation can go up, down, or stay the same.

Statistical Software Used in the Course

This course involves assignments with statistical analysis. The statistical software package that this course supports is Stata (<http://www.stata.com/>). The current version of Stata is 18 but any version that is 13 or above is fine.

You are strongly encouraged to use Stata for your assignments, as I will provide demonstrations of how to use Stata during virtual office hours and will often provide Stata code (“do files”) for both examples we cover in lecture and to get you started on your assignments. You are also expected to know (a few, very basic) Stata commands on exams.

Unfortunately, Stata is not a freely distributed software. However, you have two good options:

Purchase a six-month license of Stata

You can visit this website <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/> and purchase a six-month license of Stata/BE for a student price of \$48.00 (US dollars). You can then download and install the software immediately (although I believe you need to prove you are a student with a photocopy of a student ID card).

(Trying to) Use Stata for Free through York

You can try going to <https://myapps.yorku.ca/> and logging in with your passport York ID. You will be asked to download an app. Please do so and follow all the instructions. After the app is installed on your computer, scroll down the list of applications on the MyApps website and find Stata 14 or Stata 18. Clicking "Launch" (for Windows) or the dropdown menu and "Launch Remote" (for Mac) should launch Stata on your desktop.

Please note: York University recently made some unfortunate changes to the number of Stata licenses it could secure on MyApps. In theory then, the MyApps route is therefore not guaranteed to work all the time (even if it works on some days, it may not work on others, depending on the number of students trying to access Stata at the same time). I have been told by UIT that we have not hit the license limit and that this should not be an issue in practice.

But I have also been told you may need to try the following sometimes: if you try Stata 18 and it is not working, you should then try 14 and it will work (or vice versa). It is simpler, of course, to just purchase a six-month license (option 1 above) but I appreciate that may not be preferred. If not, you can try to use the software on the MyApps platform, understanding the license uncertainty discussed here.

Please make sure you can open Stata (using either of the options) by no later than our second lecture.

Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.).

Topics to be Covered:

The following is a preliminary list of topics and planned schedule for coverage. Please note that this is subject to change.

Week	Topic(s) to be Covered
Week 1: Monday January 6, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (Chapter 1) • Review of Basic Statistical Concepts (Textbook Appendices)
Week 2: Monday January 13, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Basic Statistical Concepts (Textbook Appendices)
Week 3: Monday January 20, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple Regression Model Part 1 (Chapter 2)
Week 4: Monday January 27, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple Regression Model Part 2 (Chapter 2)
Week 5: Monday February 3, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation Part 1 (Chapter 3)
Week 6: Monday February 10, 2025	Midterm: 11:30am to 1pm.
Week 7: Monday February 17, 2025	Reading Week
Week 8: Monday February 24, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Estimation Part 2 (Chapter 3)
Week 9: Monday March 3, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference Part 1 (Chapter 4)
Week 10: Monday March 10, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Inference Part 2 (Chapter 4)
Week 11: Monday March 17, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Further Issues (Chapter 6)
Week 12: Monday March 24, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple Regression Analysis: Dummy Variables (Chapter 7)
Week 13: Monday March 31, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heteroskedasticity (Chapter 8)

Important Course Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents): <http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/index-policies.html/>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Please also take note of the following important dates:

Course ADD/Drop Deadlines	Winter Term 2025 (W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan. 20
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan 31
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	March 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript – see note below)	March 15 - Apr. 4

****Policy and Guidelines on Withdrawn from Course:**

<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/withdrawn-from-course-w-policy-and-guidelines/>