Course Objectives: This course is designed to introduce students to the science of using data to test economic theories. The primary objective of this course is to cover the basics of ordinary least squares (OLS). These basics include estimating and evaluating OLS parameters, measuring the precision of these parameters, model specification and an overview of the classical linear assumptions. Secondary objectives of this course include reviewing statistical techniques covered in prerequisites paying special attention to the differences between population and sample distributions, reviewing and understanding hypothesis techniques, and discussing the measurement of economic theory.

Resources: The required textbook for this class is A.H. Studenmund's "Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide" 6th edition (or earlier). I will post homeworks with their answers, along with answers to quizzes and midterms on my webpage. Students will also be required to use specialized econometric software to complete homework assignments. The College of Business and Economics supports one such program: Stata v.11. Stata is freely available (with registration for this class) but it is available only in the Parks Hall computer labs. Stata is also used in Econ 470 and 475. Student versions of Stata may be purchased inexpensively at http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/

Course Outline: The study of econometrics requires a good deal of mathematical and statistical knowledge. For this reason, it is imperative that you have completed both DSCI 205 and a college-level calculus course (e.g. Math 157 or Math 124). We will begin class by quickly reviewing statistical material learned in the DSCI 205 course. This material includes probability distributions, sampling, estimation, and hypothesis testing. Chapter 17 of Studenmund (6th edition) succinctly discusses this information. A quiz will be given after covering this material. After this quiz, we will cover chapters 1 – 5, take a midterm, cover chapters 6, 7, and given enough time, chapter 8. The course will conclude with a comprehensive final exam.

Grading: Your class grade will be composed of a midterm, a quiz, various homeworks, and a final. The quiz will take place after covering chapter 17 of the text (most likely the Tuesday of the 3rd week of class). The midterm will take place after covering chapter 5 of the text (probably sometime during the 4th or 5th week of class). Homework will be assigned frequently; a preliminary guess will be 4 assignments throughout the quarter.

Your grade will be determined by the following weights:

- Homework: 15%
- Quiz: 15%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 40%

Schedule: I have two events this quarter that may cause me to miss class. The first is on Thursday, April 7 and the second is on April 28th. I’ll provide updates as these dates near.

Disability Services: Students with learning disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Support Services at 650-3844 if they desire testing accommodations for this class.

Classroom Dishonesty: Cheating on American campuses has become a common event. Surveys indicate that more than 80% of college graduates have cheated at least once during their tenure in higher education. Cheating is not a victimless crime. Grades earned through illegitimate means reduce the value of the grades earned by honest students. Therefore, students caught cheating will immediately be failed from my course. For more information regarding Western Washington University’s Academic dishonesty policy, please review the current Academic catalog, Appendix D.