

Economics 201: Economic Data Analysis

Wake Forest University, Department of Economics
Professor Allin Cottrell

Text

The required book for the course is: Gary Koop, *Analysis of Economic Data*, second edition, 2005, Wiley.

Website

Various documents pertaining to the course (including a copy of this syllabus) can be found at

<http://ricardo.ecn.wfu.edu/~cottrell/ecn201/>

You should bookmark this page in your browser.

Office Hours

Carswell 106 (758-5762): 2:30–4 MW, Tues 9–11

You are free to drop by any other times, but might call ahead first.

About this course

The purpose of this course is to provide you with basic skills relating to finding, downloading, displaying, graphing and analysing economic data, leading up to the application of *regression analysis*. Such skills form an essential part of the toolkit of the working economist. Hopefully they will stand you in good stead in your subsequent economics courses, enabling you to make sense of research findings in the literature of economics and to carry out some research of your own.

To this end we will work through chapters 1 to 10 of the Koop text, supplemented with some additional data sets and exercises. This is the first time I have used the Koop text and I'll not attempt to give a detailed breakdown of the class schedule at present; it's your responsibility to attend class and keep track of where we are at any given point.

Grading

The grade in this course is made up of two substantial data projects (each counting for 40 percent) and a number of smaller exercises, counting collectively for 20 percent. The larger data projects will focus on, respectively, an analysis of health-care expenditures across the OECD countries and crime rates across US economy. Details of the assignments will be posted on the course website. The first assignment will be due on Monday, April 6, and the second on Monday, April 27.

Please note: Unless I state otherwise, all assignments should be handed in as hard copy, not via email. So please ensure that your printer is working!