

## Research Methods in Organization Science II

MGT 791 (Spring 2018, SLN 21717)

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 Class time/location Tue. 1:00 - 3:45, BA 460<sup>a</sup>  
 Office hours Tues. 4:00-5:00 or by  
 appointment

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<sup>a</sup>On Jan 23, we will meet in MCRD 156.

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## Learning goals

The goal of this class is to make you a well-informed consumer and user of econometric techniques. I want you to develop an intuition based on both the underlying mathematics and practical experience.

The W.P. Carey School of Business has established the following learning goals for its PhD students: critical thinking, communication, discipline specific knowledge, and research methods. While our activities will focus on all four goals, we will most directly practice research methods, critical thinking and communication.

## Course materials

### Textbooks

There are three required textbooks for the class. They are widely available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and the Stata Bookstore (<http://www.stata.com/bookstore/>). Please be sure to purchase the right edition.

- Kennedy P. 2008. *A guide to econometrics* (6th ed.). MIT Press: Cambridge, Mass
- Long JS, Freese J. 2014. *Regression models for categorical dependent variables using Stata*. Stata Press
- Wooldridge JM. 2015. *Introductory econometrics : A modern approach* (6th ed.). South-Western College Pub: Cincinnati, Ohio

We will make heavy use of the Stata manuals. Please be sure you know how to access them from Stata. Lastly, we will also read selections from other textbooks which are available online through the ASU library. It is your choice whether to use them strictly online or buy the texts you find most helpful.

## Articles

Articles can be found in the Readings folder for this class on the P: drive or on the Dropbox folder to which I have invited you.

## Software and data

We will use Stata, which is available through the College of Business "S" drive. We will mostly use the sample datasets supplied with Stata for our applied exercises. These are easily available within Stata. As an example, to access the *auto* dataset, use the command `sysuse auto`.

## Policies

With the exception of policies related to grading and absences, material in this syllabus is subject to change.

## In class

Mutual respect is the baseline for learning. Avoid activities that could disturb or distract the instructor or other students. In particular, please do not arrive late, leave early or use electronics except for note taking and in-class exercises.

The University takes threatening behavior very seriously and any such situations will be handled in accordance with Student Services Manual SSM 104-2 “Handling Disruptive, Threatening, or Violent Individuals on Campus”, <http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm104-02.html>.

## Academic integrity

You are responsible for the information contained on the Provost’s webpage on academic integrity (<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>) and the W. P. Carey School of Business Honor code (<https://my.wpcarey.asu.edu/academic-integrity/upload/MBA-Honor-Code.pdf>). Any student who violates these policies will receive strict penalties. Those penalties ordinarily will range from a full 2-letter reduction in final course grade (at a minimum) to expulsion from the program and School of Business. Any subsequent act of academic misconduct, regardless of severity, will result in dismissal from the program and the School of Business.

Plagiarism is particularly threatening to the scholarly enterprise and will be handled accordingly. The University’s Academic Integrity Policy (<https://provost.asu.edu/index.php?q=academicintegrity/policy>) defines plagiarism as “using another’s words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source.” It doesn’t matter if the source is a published article, an unpublished manuscript, another student’s assignment or something from the Internet. If you misrepresent someone else’s work as your own, you are committing plagiarism, *which will result in an automatic grade of “XE” for the course.*

More proactively, I encourage you to take Joan Brett’s class on research ethics next time it is offered. She brings years of experience navigating these issues and could save you and those with whom you work a huge amount of pain.

## Absence from class

You are allowed to miss ONE class without penalty. Additional absences will result in reduced points for class participation, unless you provide a valid reason for the absence, preferably in advance. Accommodations will be made for *religious observances and holidays* according to the Academic Affairs Manual, ACD 304-04 “Accommodation for Religious Practices” and for students participating in *University-sanctioned activities* according to Academic Affairs Manual, ACD 304-02. In either case, please let me know as soon as possible so we can make appropriate accommodations. Except as designated in the policies above, assignments should be submitted before the class period for which you will be absent.

If you miss class, it is *your* responsibility to stay current with the material covered. Your fellow students may be willing to share notes with you, but are not obligated to do so.

While I am happy to answer questions during office hours, you should not expect me to repeat the contents of a missed lecture.

### **Special needs and accommodations**

If you need an accommodation for a disability, you must register with the Disability Resource Center, <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>.

### **Copyright**

All course content provided by your instructor, including on-line and in-class content, and including lectures on video and in-class, as well as written materials distributed to the class, is under copyright protection.

## **Assignments, tests and grading**

### **Class participation**

Although I will sometimes lecture, most of the learning in our class will occur through discussion. Therefore, we need everyone's active participation. Meaningful participation obviously requires having carefully read and thought about the day's material, but that is not enough. You also need to speak up. Brilliant insights are, of course, always appreciated, but you can also contribute by asking questions, politely disagreeing with me or another student, or following up on a fellow student's comments with further insights or evidence. There are usually many valid ways of looking at any issue we study, so don't worry about being wrong. In fact, in this class, if you aren't confused at least on occasion, you probably aren't paying enough attention.

### **Problem sets**

Analyzing data and communicating the results of that analysis is best learned through practice. So, there will be problem sets to complete most weeks. Collaboration is *actively encouraged* and you may complete assignments in groups of up to three students. Groups should turn in a single copy of the assignment. Including your name on an assignment to which you did not contribute significantly is a violation of academic integrity. All students in a group will receive the same grade for their assignment.

To maximize your learning, I encourage you to work through each assignment individually before working as a group. Also, I encourage you to work with different students over the semester.

Importantly, exams and quizzes are individual assignments. To perform well, you'll need to be proficient in the theory and practice of what we've covered. So, you should be sure you can perform all the steps of an analysis on your own.

### **Final exam and quizzes**

There will be a take home final exam, due at *noon, Tuesday, May 1*. We may have unannounced quizzes during any given class period. If you miss the class period in which a

quiz was given, except as discussed above under “Absence from class”, you will receive zero points for the quiz. Quiz grades will be incorporated into the final exam grade.

### Final paper

You will prepare a final paper for the class, corresponding roughly to the “Results” section of a typical journal paper. The paper will be due at *noon, Tuesday, May 1*. We’ll discuss details early in the semester.

### Grading mechanics

- Class participation 25%
- Problem sets 25%
- Final paper 25%
- Final exam and quizzes 25%

### Other material you may find useful

Beyond the required texts and the materials included in the weekly readings, I have found the following to be invaluable resources.

Greene, W. H. *Econometric Analysis*.

“The” ultimate graduate level econometrics textbook. Very thorough. If you are comfortable with matrix algebra, you should be able to push your way through Greene. He is a very straight-forward presenter, but the material is very dense and primarily mathematical in its presentation. He doesn’t convey much of the intuition. Greene is particularly strong in limited dependent variables.

Wooldridge JM, 2010. *Econometric analysis of cross section and panel data*.

More advanced than his *Introductory Econometrics*, but Wooldridge remains a superb explainer. He conveys both mathematical intuition and practical concerns. I often start by looking something up in *Introductory Econometrics* in order to get an initial understanding and then move to this text in order to get the underlying math. Happily, it is available online at <http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy1.lib.asu.edu/lib/asulib/detail.action?docID=10453042>.

Mitchell MN. 2012. *Interpreting and visualizing regression models using Stata*. Stata Press books

Invaluable. The best way to understand its approach is to check out the table of contents on its page in the Stata Bookstore, <http://www.stata.com/bookstore/interpreting-visualizing-regression-models/>.

Gelman A, Hill J. 2006. *Data analysis using regression and multilevel/hierarchical models*. Cambridge University Press.

Sort of quirky, but both broad and deep. German and Hill pull together frequentist and Bayesian methods for both single and multilevel models in a (mostly) cohesive fashion. On the one hand, it can be a bit overwhelming. On the other hand, it is great for getting an overarching view of methodology, rather than seeing it as a bunch of disjoint methods.

#### Books on Stata

The Stata Bookstore (<http://www.stata.com/bookstore/>) has a wide range of books covering multiple aspects of Stata, including programming, graphics, and applying Stata to specific types of analysis, e.g., limited dependent variables.