ECONOMICS 303
METHODS II: RESEARCH METHODS

Instructors: Aju J. Fenn, 101E Palmer Hall
             Telephone: Ext 6409, Email: afenn

Mark Griffin Smith, 101 D Palmer Hall
             Telephone: Ext 6411, Email: msmith

Robin Satterwhite, Tutt Library
             Telephone: 6856, Email: rsatterwhite

Class Hours: 9:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday. Afternoon labs as
             noted on the schedule. All labs are required unless
             noted.

Office Hours: Fenn: Week 1: NO HOURS
              Week 2: Mon, Tue & Thurs 2:30 p.m – 3:30 p.m.
              Week 3: Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

             Smith: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 1:30 – 2:30, immediately
             after class everyday and by appointment.
             No hours during week two.

Course Text: Kahane, Leo H. Regression Basics, Thousand Oaks: Sage Pubs.,
             2001. (Required)

             EC 335 Readings Binder (Required - $35 from Nancy Heinecke
             the department secretary.)

             Greenlaw, Steven A. Doing Economics: A Guide to
             Understanding and Carrying Out Economic Research,
             Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2006. (Recommended)

Synopsis: The complementary purposes of this course are to enhance your
          ability to read, interpret, and evaluate research in economics and
          business and to increase skills for carrying out your own research
          projects. As such, the course will look at basic topics in research
          methods, examine the research of others, and introduce the tools of
          modern library research.

          The course will also enhance students’ skills in searching, identifying,
          managing and analyzing business and economic data. These skills
          include: (1) identifying and using appropriate statistical sources; (2)
          developing and manipulating data sets on the personal computer
          (including online searches, downloading and transferring files); (3) using
          basic statistics and regression analysis for interpreting data; (4) graphing,
          charting and tabulating data for both analysis and presentation; and (5)
          oral presentation of research results.

          The over-arching goal of the course is to help students develop the
          skills and critical habits of mind necessary to access the validity of
          hypotheses through research.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and Overview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2   | The Varieties of Research Methods  
What Makes a Good Research Question?  
Hypotheses and Research Questions | |
|     | Library Session (9:00 – 10:00)  Searching electronic databases for business and economics literature. | |
| 3   | The Introduction and Literature Review  
Using the Writing Center (11:00 a.m.) | |
|     | Afternoon: Individual meetings with Robin, Aju, Mark. | |
| 4   | Project Work Day (no class) | |
|     | Morning: Individual meetings with Robin and Mark. | |
| 5   | Presentations of Research Topics | |
| 6   | Statistics Review  
Graphical Excellence | Handouts |
|     | Library Session: Survey Monkey (11:00 – 12:00) | |
| 7   | Modeling – Introduction to Regression Analysis:  
Simple Regression | K. 1, 2 |
| 8   | Model Performance & Multiple Regression | K. 3,4 |
| 9   | Common Econometric Problems | K. 6 |
| 10  | Model Building & Regression Analysis – Summary | K. 5 |
| 11  | Qualitative Research Methods: Case Study Research | |
|     | Library Session (11:00 – 12:00) Searching electronic databases for business and economics data. | |
|     | Afternoon Session: Exam Review 2:30 p.m.(Fenn) | |
Day  |  Topic                                | Reading
--- | --------------------------------------|-----------
12  | Regression Exam                       |           
13  | Applied Regression Assignment         |           
14  | Project Work Day – No class.          |           
15  | Project Presentations                 |           
16  | Project Work Day – No class.          |           
17  | Research Proposal Presentations       |           
18  | Research Proposal Presentations       |           

**Course Requirements**

1. Homework  
2. Literature Review  
3. Regression Exam  
4. Applied Regression Problem  
5. Data Exercise  
6. Research Proposal  
7. Proposal Presentation

**Homework:** It is our expectation that you will come to class each day having read the material assigned for that day in advance of the class meeting and completed all assigned homework. This will facilitate both your understanding and our class discussion of the material.

Homework will be collected everyday. **All homework is due by the start of class on the assigned due date. Late homework will not be accepted except in cases of illness or prior arrangement with the instructor.**

**Regression Exam:** An exam covering the material on regression analysis will be given on the third Tuesday of the block. Students will be allowed to bring an index card “cheat sheet” to the exam. Problems on the exam will be like the homework assignments that focus on using regression analysis to analyze data, interpret results and assess the quality of the model.
In addition, there will be some short essay problems covering a conceptual understanding of regression analysis.

If you would like to improve your grade on the regression exam, an optional second regression exam can be taken on either of the final two days of the course. This grade can be substituted for the first exam grade. While the content is the same as the first regression exam, the test is all multiple choice.