Econ 326 004
Methods of Empirical Research in Economics
Term 2, 2009-2010

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Time and Location: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9-10am, BUCH B213

Office Hours: Friday 10-11am

Teaching Assistant: Xin Zhao, xinzhao1985@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday 18:00-18:30 and Thursday 19:00-19:30 at BUCH B125

TA Sessions:
Session 1: Tuesday 17:00-18:00, BUCH B125

Session 2: Thursday 18:00-19:00, BUCH B125

Textbooks
Wooldridge J.M. (2009): *Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach*, 4th edition, South-Western/Cengage Learning, Mason, OH **(required)**; see also http://academic.cengage.com/economics/wooldridge

Course Description: This course is an introduction to econometrics and covers the basics of simple and multivariate regression for cross-sectional data. *Econ 325 is prerequisite for this course.* Students are expected to be familiar with basic concepts in probability and statistics.

There will be weekly assignments. No work will be accepted after the lecture on the due date, unless a written proof of the emergency situation that causes the delay is provided. If a student finds a problem in grading of a problem set, she/he should immidiately talk to the TA.

In addition to analytical exercises, the students will receive practical questions requiring handling and analyzing data using statistical software package Stata. Stata training will be provided during the TA sessions. Many excellent Stata tutorials can be found online, see for example Stata resource at princeton: http://dss1.princeton.edu/usingdata/stata.html. Stata is available on the computers in Buchanan B101, B125, and B126. These rooms are often booked for other classes. Please check the lab schedule at http://www.arts.ubc.ca/index.php?id=3879. The Stata is also available for purchase at special GradPlan pricing; see http://www.it.ubc.ca/software/mathstat/other-math.html. The **midterm exam** will be held on Feb 9, 5:30-7:00pm, at Wood (IRC) 4.

Grading: Assignments (20% of the final grade), a midterm exam (30%), and a final exam (50%). In computing the final grade, the worst homework assignment will be ignored.

Topics:

1. **Introduction** (Ch 1).
2. **Review of probability** (Appendix B).
3. **Simple linear regression** (Ch 2, Appendix C.1-C.2, C.5).
4. **Multiple linear regression** (Ch 3).
5. **Multiple linear regression: Inference** (Ch 4, Appendix C.6).
6. **OLS asymptotics** (Ch 5, Appendix C.3).
7. **Qualitative information and functional form** (Ch 6, 7).
8. **Heteroskedasticity** (Ch 8).