

Laboratory Methods for Economics

Section 01: Monday, 4:10-5:30 PM; Section 02: Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 PM; Fridays: 8:30-10:00

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00, Wednesdays, 10:00-10:50, & by appointment, Room 308 PAC.

Teaching Apprentices:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: A half-credit lab course primarily for students concurrently enrolled in Econ 270. The lab course provides an opportunity for students to develop their computer skills, with particular emphasis on applications. Formal lab sessions will be held for one hour each week supplemented by informal sessions where students can receive one-on-one help and support. Each formal lab session will be limited to a maximum of 12 students.

Note: This course is for students concurrently enrolled in E270. If you are enrolled in E270 you are guaranteed a spot in this course. If you are not in E270 you cannot take E280.

General Course Information:

- Attendance is mandatory, except for students who complete the assignment in advance of the session.
 - Structure: Weekly applications modules will cover the skills listed in the chart below, many of which are essential for students who are enrolled in E270 and advanced economics courses or who are undertaking research projects. Students will demonstrate the skill level they achieve in each module by completing a set of self-paced structured exercises. Each module can be completed at a Basic, Advanced, or Master level.
 - The course will support a particular software package selected for each module. However, students with considerable prior experience with an alternative software package may wish to use it instead (e.g. Lotus instead of Excel). Any students desiring to substitute must obtain instructor approval in advance. Lab assistant and instructor support is not available for students using a substitute program.
 - Readings: None required, but manuals and other handouts and materials on the WWW will prove useful at various points in the course.
 - Coursework and Grades: There will be a series of up to 10 exercises that count equally towards the final grade. Each exercise must be handed in by the specified date in order to receive full credit. Completed Assignments should be placed in the Econ 280 slot in the Economics/Sociology Alcove next to the economics department office (No FAX or Email). Assignments will be returned in the alphabetical slots in the Alcove.
 - Honor Code: All work handed in must be your own. This does not mean that you must refrain from discussing assignments with other students as an aid to understanding the material, but it does preclude copying other students' work. This distinction is generally clear enough to make in practice; when in doubt, please talk the matter over with your instructor.
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Econ 280 Modules (to be revised)

	MODULE TOPICS (<i>tentative</i>)	Due Dates: Basic	Advanced	Master
1	Introduction (Operating System, Web, Mail)	Jan 30	none	none
2	Navigating The Internet; Data Sources; EconLit	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20
3	Word Processing (Word)	Feb 13	none	none
4	Word Processing (cont.)	Feb 20	Feb 27	March 6
5	Electronic Spreadsheet (Excel)	Feb 27	None	None
6	Electronic Spreadsheets (cont.)	March 6	March 27	April 3
7	Econometrics (Eviews)	March 27	April 3	April 10
8	Equation Processors (Mathematica)	April 3	April 10	
9	Optional Projects (Web Pages, Access, Power Pont, etc)	April 24	May 1	