

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL & RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Syllabus

Agricultural & Resource Economics / Economics 535
Applied Econometrics

Fall 2026

Instructor: Stephen R. Koontz

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Class Meeting Location and Time: C-144 Clark Building 2:00-3:15 PM TR.

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 PM M-F. The instructor maintains an open-door office policy. However, it is more efficient to make an appointment. The instructor is willing to meet informally outside of class hours to discuss readings, homework, and the methodology of econometrics, research, and science – and maybe software. Students need to take the initiative here. Virtual office-hour meetings are also available.

Course Objective:

Econometric techniques applied to testing and quantification of theoretical economic relationships drawn from both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

This is a course in applied econometrics. The main objective of the course is to initiate students to the practice of econometrics in applied research. The course will emphasize the development of quantitative, statistical, and analytical skills. Practicing applied econometrics involves understanding model development, model specification, sensitivity and specification testing, data handling, hypothesis testing, model interpretation, and use.

Prerequisites:

Students need some familiarity in statistical methods, statistical theory, linear algebra, and calculus. The formal course requirements are the following:

ECON 304 (Intermediate Macroeconomics) or ECON 306 (Intermediate Microeconomics) and ECON/AREC 335 (Introduction to Econometrics). Concurrent enrollment in ECON 501 and/or ECON/AREC 506 is not required but will be helpful.

Course Material:

Assignments will be made from the required text. Supporting reading will be identified in recommended.

Required: R. Carter Hill, William E. Griffiths, and Guay C. Lim. *Principles of Econometrics*, Fifth Edition. Wiley, 2018. An acceptable substitute is: Damodar N. Gujarati and Dawn C. Porter. *Basic Econometrics*, Fifth Edition. McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2009.

Recommended: Ethan Bueno de Mesquita and Anthony Fowler. *Thinking Clearly with Data: A Guide to Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis*. Princeton University Press, 2021. And Peter Kennedy. *A Guide to Econometrics*, Sixth Edition. MIT Press, 2008.

Lecture and other class materials will be posted at <https://webdoc.agsci.colostate.edu/koontz/>. Use of Canvas will be made for announcements, discussions, assignments, grading and grades. Students should make sure the email address tied to their eID is up-to-date and campus email is preferred.

Grading:

Examinations and assignments for the course will total approximately 700 points. The approximate distribution of these points is as follows.

First Examination	100 points
Second Examination	100 points
Problem Sets	250 points
Assignments	100 points
Final Examination	150 points

The instructor reserves the right to change the percentage of points in the course requirements. The most likely change will be to assignments. But any changes will be communicated.

Final grades for the course will be determined on the standard modification to the 90-80-70-60 scale that accompanies Graduate School courses. Any student receiving less than 80% on the graded course material will receive a “C.” There are no exceptions and there is no negotiation. (In addition, any student receiving less than 60% on the graded course material will receive an “F.” This rule will be exercised if needed.) If a student shows strong improvement in exam scores over the semester, the instructor reserves the right to weigh the end-of-semester exams more heavily when calculating that student’s final grade. The instructor will make minimal use of the +/- grading system.

If you are a student who needs accommodation due to a disability or health condition, then make an appointment with the instructor to discuss your needs. Accommodations need to be identified prior to implementation. A verifying accommodation letter from Resources for Disabled Students is a must.

Assignments:

There will be three examinations. There will be two 100-point exams given during the semester. There will be a 150-point final exam at the end of the semester.

There will be two types of graded out-of-class assignments. Student teams will be assigned five problem sets. Teams will consist of two individuals. This work will expose students to a variety of methods and data types. The instructor will provide the data and ask a variety of questions related to the modeling process and economic interpretation. Student teams will perform the analysis and write a short professional report describing the results of the analysis and answering the questions. Problem sets are to emphasize communication – and not the printing of regression results. I also expect there to be across-team communication, but each team must have a unique report. Problem sets will be about one week in duration and made about every two weeks. Students will need to become familiar with at least one spreadsheet and statistical regression software package.

Students will also have assignments to complete individually. These assignments will be less lengthy, will involve derivations, will give each student the opportunity to practice and display individual skills, and will not necessarily be software based. Students will complete this work independently. Grading of this requirement will be soft, it is the responsibility of the student to communicate correct and efficient answers, and connect individual performance to requirements.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy:

University AI policy in course work is at the discretion of the faculty teaching each course. In this course, AI use is acceptable within limited applications. AI used to produce any work product should be viewed as a co-author. AI use to construct communications that are intended to demonstrate thinking is not acceptable. Most of your work should be your work – you are the author with no co-author. There is

joint work in this course and that effort there should be you and your human co-author. AI use as a co-author is not acceptable. AI use to facilitate learning is acceptable. AI use is acceptable for learning how to write code in statistical software. But once you understand how to write code for a specific task then you should be working without AI. But you can proof your code with AI.

Academic Integrity Policy:

University academic integrity policies are enforced. Students should read and know these policies. The policies are published in the General Catalog. Students are encouraged to work together and develop professional and peer networks. But students also must know that work that is not independent is not acceptable. Submitting any assignment implies that you have complied with course requirements and the University Academic Integrity Policy.

Communication:

Office visits, phone calls, and email are all acceptable means of communication with the instructor. I expect students to be professional. Professionalism is a requirement for in-class and electronic communication. Questioning and discussion are essential. As is professional conduct and respect.

Emails must do the following: identify the sender and not just the email address, contain a signature with contact information, and include “AREC 535” or “ECON 535” at the beginning of the subject line. The file name of email attachments must include the same, date, sender last name, and a brief description of the contents of the attachment. I have a strong preference for PDF file types as attachments.

Final Exam:

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, from 6:20 PM – 8:20 PM. Any exception to this must be cleared with the instructor by Monday the last week of class. The exam will be comprehensive with a slightly heavier influence on the untested final portion of the course.

Course Philosophy:

My approach to teaching econometrics is to teach applications and examples. That is how I learn, and this process is what largely motivates me. Theory is important, both economic and econometric. Forgetting your theory will lead you to make enormous mistakes. But I believe students can be motivated to develop an interest in theory through the learning that takes place with interesting, applied problem solving. You probably chose the profession you did because of a desire for career success or desire to do something good rather than because you want to be a scholar. Further, this is a Land Grant university. We are supposed to do applied research. I want you to leave this course with a set of skills and an ability to conduct applied research using econometric methods. This goal will be addressed through the two types of graded out-of-class assignments, supported by the readings, and the material covered in lectures.

The problem sets are to expose the student to a breadth of topics. Different economic problems require different methods. Likewise, different models have different problems which must be attended to for the researcher to draw the correct conclusions from those models. Linear regression is a good tool for an applied economist to know how to use, but it is not the only tool they must know how to use. The assignments are to develop the students’ skills in thinking and producing analytical work. Econometrics is not all about getting the answer out of your computer software. It is also about using the tools of statistics and mathematics to focus computational efforts and economic thinking.

The instructor will periodically digress into discussions of professional expectations and philosophy of science. Students are expected to be interested, ask and answer questions, contribute to the discussion, and link the big picture to the mechanics of course materials.

Important Colorado State University Policies:

Links within the below provide information on policies relevant to your courses and resources to help with various challenges you may encounter: <https://col.st/2FA2g> or



Sexual Assault and Violence Elimination

CSU's Student Sexual Harassment and Violence policy, following national guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, requires that professors follow CSU policy as a "mandatory reporter" of any personal disclosure of sexual harassment, abuse, and/or violence related experiences or incidents shared with the professor in person, via email, and/or in classroom papers or homework exercises. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of personal relational abuse, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. While professors are often able to help students locate appropriate channels of assistance on campus (e.g., see the CSU Health Network link below), disclosure by the student to the professor requires that the professor inform appropriate CSU channels to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, even if the student requests that the disclosure not be shared.

For counseling support and assistance, please see The CSU Health Network, which includes a variety of counseling services that can be accessed at: <http://www.health.colostate.edu/>. The Sexual Assault Victim Assistance Team is a confidential resource for students that do not have a reporting requirement and that can be of great help to students who have experienced sexual assault. The web address is <http://www.wgac.colostate.edu/need-help-support>.

Principles of Community

The Principles of Community support the Colorado State University mission and vision of access, research, teaching, service, and engagement. A collaborative, and vibrant community is a foundation for learning, critical inquiry, and discovery. Therefore, each member of the CSU community has a responsibility to uphold these principles when engaging with one another and acting on behalf of the University.

- Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents, and contributions.
- Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.
- Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.
- Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.
- Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Course Outline	
Topics	Reading Assignments
Introduction to Econometrics What are econometrics?	
Regression Estimation Least Squares & Maximum Likelihood Goodness of Fit Model Interpretation and Use	HGL Chapters 1, 2 & 5. App A & B. GP Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, & 7. App A & B. K: Chapter 1, 2, 3, 5, & 22.
Regression Estimation and Inference Significance Testing Model Building	HGL Chapters 3, 4 & 6. App C & D. GP Chapters 4, 5 & 8. App C & D. K: Chapter 4.
Regression Basics Dummy Variables & Trend Variables Collinearity and Influential Data	HGL Chapters 7 & 9. GP Chapters 13 (pp. 467-77&493-6) & 9. K: Chapters 6 & 15. GP Chapter 10. K: Chapters 12 & 14.
Exam 1	
Serial Correlation Testing, Consequences, Correction Generalized Least Squares	HGL 9 (pp.) GP Chapter 12. K: Chapter 8.
Heteroskedasticity Testing, Consequences, Correction GLS & Maximum Likelihood Models	HGL Chapter 8. GP Chapter 11. K: Chapter 8.
Dynamic Models & Spatial Models Lagged Dependent Variable & Distributed Lags	HGL 9 (pp.) GP Chapter 17. K: Chapters 10 & 13.
Panel Data Fixed & Random Effects	HGL Chapter 15. GP Chapter 16. K: Chapter 18.
Probit, Logit, Tobit & Censored Regressions Estimation & Interpretation	HGL Chapter 16. GP Chapter 15. K: Chapters 16 & 17.
Exam 2	
Simultaneous Equations Identification 2SLS & 3SLS	HGL Chapters 11 & 10. GP Chapters 18, 19, & 20. K: Chapters 9 & 11.
Time Series Autoregressive & Moving Average Processes Nonstationarity & Cointegration	HGL Chapter 12. GP Chapters 21 & 22. K: Chapters 19 & 20.

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Survey

Agricultural & Resource Economics / Economics 535
Applied Econometrics

Fall 2026

Name: _____

Department and Degree Sought: _____

Time in Program: _____

Previous Course Work (List all graduate or the highest-level undergraduate courses using words):

Agricultural Economics: _____

Economics: _____

Statistics: _____

Mathematics: _____

List statistical and spreadsheet software with which you are familiar:

I have read the syllabus and understand the course requirements. _____

(Extract this page from the PDF, fill it out, and submit through Canvas. This skill will be used again.)