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Course Syllabus

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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Roman Keeney
agec685F17@gmail.com



Statement of purpose








This course in quantitative methods provides a survey of techniques that can broadly be characterized as "modeling." As opposed to statistical analyses, 'modeling' is a more encompassing term, spanning the process from problem statement to quantified results. A previous course on statistical methods with focus on distribution of variables and estimation of correlative relations is assumed in the presentation of course material, though where necessary refresher material is included.

As a survey course, the material here is most aptly aimed at "consumers" or "users" of model outputs for purposes of better informed decision making. We will consistently revisit the scope and limitations of model design, implementation, and outputs. Practical experience in the course will be gained through lectures, labs, and assignments that dissect decision making into quantitative sub-problems that can be analyzed under a variety of modeling techniques. Model methods covered will focus generically on an "optimization" criterion, choosing the "best" from a set of alternatives. By extension, we will consider the probabilistic nature of outcomes as related to choices, identifying the key points where uncertainty enters into the system and how that may be quantified.

Class Schedule

At the beginning of each module an overview will be posted that includes the order in which materials should be completed. Final assignments for each module are due on the Monday following the close of the module. The course is divided into two parts. The first two modules (four weeks) are a mini-course in economic modeling and will require individual submission work by students. Students are allowed to discuss and compare progress with their group but assignment submissions are done on an individual basis during part I. Part II of the course moves to advanced topics and the assignments are submitted by groups. Module outlines are subject to change from this document as course progress requires. At the beginning of each two week module the information posted on the course homepage becomes finalized and the module specific instruction document will serve as the student's guide for completion of the next two weeks of the course.

Please refer to the module outline and instruction sheet that is posted along with the new module's materials before beginning that module's work (readings, lectures, etc). Module outlines are titled Introduction M.O where the 'M' is replaced by the Roman numeral appropriate for the current period's module.


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Modular course design

Each module contains the following items:

- Lecture material
- Readings
- Individual or group deliverable assignment
- Additional optional materials may be added to certain modules

Course grading









Grading in the course is based on performance in the following:

- Quizzes
- Individual assignments
- Group assignments (residency and modules III through V)













Final grades will be determined by assigning 30% of the grade weight on individual work that is submitted. The remainder of the grade weight is assigned to group work.

Course text:

There is no assigned or optional text for this course. Readings are selected from a variety of sources and provided to students via scanned pdf on the course web portal. These scans are excerpts and provided to students under a policy of fair educational use. At the conclusion of each module an annotated list of references appropriate for extended study will be provided.


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Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Sep 4, 2017	 Assignment 1	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 18, 2017	 Assignment 2	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 2, 2017	 Assignment 3	due by 11:59pm
	 Assignment 4 - Quiz 1	
	 Assignment 4: Quiz 2	
	 Assignment 5 Quiz	
	 Module 1, Lecture 1 Quiz	
	 Module 1, Lecture 2: Quiz	
	 Module 1, Lecture 3 Quiz	
	 Module 1, Lecture 4: Quiz	
	 Module I B - Complete this AFTER you submit Assignment #1	
	 Module I, Lab Quiz	