

ECON 245 A01
DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS AND PROBABILITY

Winter Session: 202409; **CRN: 11090** (Lecture); 11092, 11093, 11094, 11096 (Labs). Units: 1.5.
Lectures: Monday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. **David Strong Building**, room: **C118**.

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Lkw'waka'waka (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lekw'wexw' and WSÁNE Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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Understanding and interpreting data is important to answer many questions in Economics. ECON 245 is a foundational course in Economics that provides a rigorous introduction to statistics and probability theory. In addition to ensuring students are familiar with the theory, the course will also introduce techniques to describe and summarize economic data.

The key topics include descriptive statistics, elementary probability, random variables, discrete and continuous probability distributions. In addition to lectures, to ensure reliable understanding of economic questions and data, the course includes laboratory classes where students will learn computing techniques for applications of the concepts learned in class. To help with furthering the understanding of the material, there will be assignments, midterms and a final examination.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to clearly recognize, describe, distinguish and compare statistical vocabulary, concepts and notation.

Students will be able to identify the components of a data set, describe the type of data being used/observed and their scale of measurement.

Students will be able to use tabular and graphical displays to summarize data for categorical and quantitative

Students will be able to apply Bayes' Theorem.

Students will be able to clearly define, identify and compare discrete and random variables, and will be able to obtain probability distributions, cumulative distribution functions, expected value and variance (including properties), joint distributions of two random variables, calculating and interpreting the covariance and correlation coefficients, identifying and using important distributions (both discrete and continuous).

Course Prerequisites can be found [here](#).

Minimum Grade Requirement: students require a minimum grade of C+ in this course as a program requirement to complete a major in Economics.

Repeating Courses: Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](#). In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the [Repeating Courses](#) policy on the Economics website.

Please Note: we will be using the WebAssign feature for class. Older editions are fine as well.
Course Reserve: There is a copy of the textbook on reserve at the library which you can check out for *two hours*.

Additional supplementary materials will be provided as PDFs on Brightspace.

Grading and Assessments: the course grade is determined as follows:

	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>	<i>Due Dates</i>
Assignments (best 3 of 4)	30%	See course calendar.
Midterm Exam #1	20%	Thursday Oct.

11	Nov. 11 - 15	University Closed	Chapter No. 5	
12	Nov. 18 - 22	Midterm	Chapter No. 6	x
13	Nov. 25 - 29	Chapter No. 6	Chapter No. 6 (Assignment #4 due)	x
14	Dec. 2 - Dec. 6	Chapter No. 6	Review	

(*) Denotes classes that will be recorded and posted on *Brightspace* rather than being in-person.

Additional Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- **Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropmaag**

Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness](#) - The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour.

Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp . If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence

and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resou2.3 (up(s)-2.3 (vp.6 (i)-2o6.9 (f)-1.6

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus.

Agreement:

I, _____ (student name), have read the entirety of the course outline and fully understand all course requirements for ECON 245. By signing this document, I agree to all the course policies set out in the syllabus, especially those related to Academic Integrity.

Signature