THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE
Faculty of Social Sciences
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Course Outline

COURSE TITLE: METHODS OF ECONOMIC INVESTIGATION

COURSE CODE: ECON 6003

LEVEL: Graduate

SEMESTER: 1

NO. OF CREDITS: 3

PRE-REQUISITE(S):

COURSE DESCRIPTION/RATIONALE

ECON 6003 consists of two modules, the aim of which is to provide students with the theoretical, practical and technical foundations for undertaking survey-based data-driven research that addresses social and economic problems. The course seeks to impart an appreciation for a seamless process in the conduct of economic research; from inception and data gathering design through to econometric modeling and estimation. The focus of Module 1 is on survey research. Module 2 is based in microeconometrics.

CONTENT

MODULE 1: SURVEY RESEARCH AND SURVEY SAMPLING
Lecturer: Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard

Objectives
1. To create appreciation of the importance of the philosophy of science in the context of research designs.

2. To empower students in their quest to undertake survey research focusing on the analysis of economic problems and facilitating economic decision-making.

3. To introduce students to the elements of survey sampling, its rationale, its applications, and issues surrounding the interpretation of results.
Content

Topic 1: The Nature and Essence of Research as a Process
Topic 2: Qualitative versus Quantitative Research Traditions
Topic 3: Research Design and Options associated with Qualitative and Quantitative Traditions
Topic 4: Conceptualization and Measurement
Topic 5: Issues and Challenges in Experimentation
Topic 6: Issues and Challenges in Data Collection in Survey Research
Topic 7: Survey Sampling: Concepts, Design and Estimation
Topic 8: Data Preparation and Evaluation of Quality
Topic 9: Ethical Issues, Proposal and Report Writing

Main Texts


Supplementary Texts


Note: Additional articles and other reading material may be recommended

Readings

**Topic 1:** The Nature and Essence of Research as a Process  
*Readings - Bernard: Chapters 1 and 3; Babbie: Chapters 1 to 3*

**Topic 2:** Qualitative versus Quantitative Research Traditions  
*Readings – Bernard: Chapter 11, Creswell: Chapter 4 and Bryman: Chapters 2 and 3; Berg: Chapter 1*

**Topic 3:** Research Design and Options associated with Qualitative and Quantitative Traditions  
*Readings - Bernard: Chapter 2; Babbie: Chapters 4 and 5; Creswell: Chapter 2 and Chapter 3; Berg: Chapter 2*

**Topic 4:** Conceptualization and Measurement  
*Readings - Babbie: Chapters on “Conceptualization and Measurement” and “Operationalization”*

**Topic 5:** Issues and Challenges: Experimentation  
*Readings - Bernard: Chapters 4; Babbie: Chapters 8 and 9*

**Topic 6:** Issues and Challenges: Data Collection Issues in Survey Research  
*Readings – Bernard: Chapters 6 - 8; Babbie: Chapters 6, 7, 10 and 11*

**Topic 7:** Survey Sampling: Concepts, Design and Estimation  
*Readings – Bernard: Chapters 5; See Readings below*
MODULE 2: MICROECONOMETRIC MODELS AND METHODS
Lecturer: Dr. Ewan Scott

Objectives
This module will provide graduate students with a sound foundation in the application of advanced statistical methods to problems in microeconomics. As such, it will build on the students’ knowledge of probability and distribution theory and basic econometrics. Students are expected to have some basic competence with some statistical software packages such as Eviews, SPSS or TSP.

Recommended Texts


Note: Reading packs for this module are available in the Lecturer’s Box, Library.

Syllabus:

Week 1: Review
1. Probability and Distribution Theory
2. Basic Econometric Theory

Greene, chpt. 3,4,6; Any good Introductory Statistics/Econometric text

Week 2, 3: Models with Discrete Dependent Variables
1. Introduction: Discrete Choice Models
2. Estimation and Inference in Binary Choice Models
3. Multiple Choice Models

Greene, chpt. 19; Maddala, chpt. 2

Week 4, 5: Limited Dependent Variable Models
1. Introduction
2. Truncated Regression Models
3. Censored Regression Models
4. Sample Selection

Greene, chpt. 20; Maddala, chpt. 6

Week 6, 7: Estimation of Demand and Production Functions
1. Demand Systems – Functional forms and Estimation
2. Production Functions - Functional forms and Estimation
3. Flexible functional forms


ASSESSMENT

Coursework // Final Exam :: 25% // 75%
Overall assessment of the course will be split evenly between the 2 modules. Coursework assessment for each module will take the form of a 2-hour test and/or an assignment. All coursework components must be submitted at latest 2 weeks before the end of classes.