

Econometrics I
ECONOMICS EC2222A-001/002
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2026

Instructor: Nirav Mehta

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Office hours: In-person; Tu and Th: 10:15-11:15am @ 4011 SSC

Delivery mode: In-person (with rare exceptions, which will be announced)

Meeting time(s): Section 001: Tu 11:30am-12:30pm; Th 11:30am-1:30pm.
Section 002: Tu 2:30-3:30pm; Th 1:30-3:30pm.

Classroom: Section 001: SSC 3024. Section 002: AHB 1B02.

Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4078 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisites for this course are: either (1) Economics 1021A/B (or Economics 2050A/B) and Economics 1022A/B, or (2) Economics 2001A/B; and Calculus 1000A/B (with a mark no less than 60%) or Calculus 1500A/B (with a mark no less than 60%).

This course cannot be taken concurrently with or prior to taking Data Science 1000A/B as they will become antirequisites to one another in these sequences.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Description:

An undergraduate, calculus-based introduction to probability and statistics for economists, covering descriptive statistics for cross-sectional samples, probability theory, discrete and continuous probability distributions, random variables, estimators and sampling distributions, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing.

Course Objectives:

This is an introductory course in probability and statistics. The main goals are to teach students how to use statistics and basic economic theory to read and interpret data and to prepare students

for Economics 2223 and other courses in the Honours Economics sequence. The course is calculus-based, so students should be comfortable with derivatives and integrals from the start.

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students should be able to: (i) interpret tables, graphs, and statistics used for describing data; (ii) apply probability theory to model random variables; (iii) estimate population parameters using point and interval estimators; (iv) evaluate and describe the properties of an estimator; and (v) test theories about population parameters (determine an appropriate test statistic; implement a formal hypothesis test and interpret the outcomes).

Textbook and Other Learning Materials

- **Required textbook:** My lectures are designed to be self-contained, so there is no required textbook. **Students are expected to attend all lectures, as lecture notes will not be distributed.**
- Students who want a conventional textbook may use Newbold, Carlson, and Thorne, *Statistics for Business and Economics* (the eBook for the 8th edition can be [purchased](#) for \$102 via the Campus Bookstore, or [rented](#) for 180 days for \$68 via the Campus bookstore). Second-hand or earlier editions are fine, and several copies have been placed on reserve at Weldon. Chapter references will be given at the start of a new topic.

Course Outline:

This is a tentative outline of our course. The outline may be adjusted based on our progress. Note that material in lectures may not be in the textbook but may still appear on exams.

1. Foundations

- (a) Descriptive statistics
- (b) Probability theory

2. Probability distributions

- (a) Discrete random variables and probability distributions
- (b) Continuous random variables and probability distributions
- (c) Random sampling and sampling distributions

3. Inferential statistics

- (a) Point estimation
- (b) Confidence intervals
- (c) Hypothesis testing

Assessments and Grading:

There are graded homeworks, in-class quizzes, and a final exam.

Homeworks: There will be six graded homeworks, each of which will cover recent material and will be graded primarily to incentivize students to attempt solving the problems. Homeworks will be posted on the course website ahead of their due dates (see schedule below) and must be submitted online, by 11pm on their due dates. Late homeworks are forfeited. The lowest homework score will be dropped.

Quizzes: There will be six quizzes written during regularly scheduled lecture time on Tuesdays spread across the term (see schedule below). Quizzes will typically focus on material from the preceding one to two weeks. The lowest two quiz scores are dropped, and there are no make-up quizzes.

Final exam: There will be a cumulative final exam, the date and time for which will be set later this semester by the Registrar's office.

The course grade is computed using the following weights:

Homework:	10% (best 5 x 2% per homework)
Quizzes:	40% (best 4 x 10% per quiz)
Final exam:	50%

The only aid permitted in quizzes or in the final exam is a non-graphing, non-programmable calculator.

Conditions for passing the course: You must pass the final exam (i.e., receive a mark of at least 50% on it) to pass the course; a student who does not pass the final exam will receive a course grade of no more than 48%. In addition, writing at least four of the six quizzes is a condition of writing the final exam: a student who misses more than two quizzes without approved academic consideration may be prohibited from writing the final exam (see the Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement below).

Missed assessments and the academic consideration policy.

Under Western's Policy on Academic Consideration, you may request consideration for missing an assessment for extenuating circumstances; requests without supporting documentation (self-attestation) are limited to one per term per course. No assessment in this course requires documentation beyond the University's standard rule that exams scheduled by the Registrar (i.e., the final exam) always require formal supporting documentation. Flexibility is already built into the homework (best five of six counted) and quizzes (best four of six counted, no make-ups): a missed homework or quiz (whether self-attested, within the University's one-per-term limit, or otherwise excused) simply becomes one of the dropped scores, and no further action is needed. If circumstances beyond your control cause you to miss more homeworks or quizzes than would already be dropped, contact me and your academic counsellor as soon as possible (no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment) to discuss potential academic consideration. In case of an absence without approved consideration, a grade of zero will be assigned to that assessment. If you miss the final exam and your absence is supported by approved academic consideration, you

are entitled to one makeup final exam; per Faculty of Social Science policy, retroactive reweighting is not available for a missed final exam. If academic consideration is granted for a quiz missed beyond your dropped ones, the weight of that quiz will be transferred to the final exam rather than a makeup quiz being offered (see the Faculty of Social Science's Makeup Assessment Procedure below).

You may submit a quiz for a regrade within one week of when it has been handed back in class but note that I will scrutinize the entire quiz during the regrade. This means your grade may go up, go down, or stay the same.

Important Dates:

9/10: First day of class
9/17: Last day to add
9/20: Homework 1 due
9/22: Quiz 1
10/4: Homework 2 due
10/6: Quiz 2
10/10-10/18: Fall Reading Week (no classes)
10/25: Homework 3 due
10/27: Quiz 3
11/8: Homework 4 due
11/10: Quiz 4
11/22: Homework 5 due
11/24: Quiz 5
11/29: Homework 6 due
11/30: Last day to withdraw without academic penalty
12/1: Quiz 6
12/8: Last day of class
12/11-12/22: Final exam period (final exam date set by the Registrar)

Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:

Note that all of my material, including my lectures, is my intellectual property. This means lectures or other course materials cannot be shared with others. Recording lectures (audio or video) or posting course materials to any website or file-sharing service is prohibited without my written permission.

Use of AI tools:

You may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini) to study: to explain a concept, to check your reasoning, or to generate practice problems. On homework, the write-up you submit must be your own work; if you used an AI tool while preparing it, state briefly at the top which tool(s) you used and how you used it/them. No AI tools, smart devices, or internet-capable devices of any kind may be used during quizzes or the final exam (see the Department policy on cheating below).

Electronic Devices:

The only electronic device you may use during quizzes and the final exam is a non-graphing, non-programmable calculator. Graphing/programmable calculators, cell phones, smart watches, smart glasses, earbuds, etc., must be kept in your bag. Smart glasses are not permitted during exams; if your smart glasses are vision-correcting, you must bring a non-smart pair of glasses to write the exam. Any internet-capable device found at the desk or on a student during the exam is viewed as an attempt to cheat.

Tips on How to be Successful in this Class:

- Come to lectures, take notes, and ask questions if you're confused. Lectures provide the conceptual groundwork for this course, so if something is unclear to you, just ask during the lecture.
- Homeworks provide a mix of theoretical and applied questions. You should at least attempt to solve all the homework problems.
- Follow along and come to office hours if you have any questions about the course material.
- Study with a friend. Oftentimes explaining a concept to someone else is the best way to solidify your understanding of it!

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. An [*academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. New Policies and Procedures for [Relief of Academic Decisions](#), [Scholastic Offences](#) and [Appeals](#) are in effect starting in September 2025.
4. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**”: [Instructions for candidates during examinations](#).
5. The [Academic Integrity Module](#) is mandatory for all incoming undergraduate students and must be completed before the first day of classes. The tutorial is available on Brightspace at the link above, select “Enroll in Course” to begin.
6. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” For example, all electronic devices and smart devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops, tablets, smart watches, smart glasses, earbuds etc.) need to be turned off and cannot be used during an exam. Since smart glasses are not permitted, students need to bring alternative eyewear. *Any internet-capable device found at the desk or on a student during the exam is viewed as an attempt to cheat.* Smart technology usage (e.g., chat GPT or other AI) or technology that connects students to a person outside of the exam room are also prohibited. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
7. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Offence in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).
8. Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 7.

9. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
10. Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: [Appeals Procedure](#). The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.
11. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
12. **ADD/DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** a full or half course: **September 17, 2026**
- Deadline to **DROP** a full or half course: **November 30, 2026**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the

instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medical_certificate.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. [2026 Religious Holidays](#) and additional information are available on [Western's EDI Webpage](#).

A new **procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science is effective September 1, 2026**, and outlined below.

Students who miss a regularly scheduled test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam may request academic consideration through the [Student Absence Portal](#).

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.** Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment.

What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through [Student Center](#) before the [published drop deadline](#). A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office [refund schedule](#) to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the [Student Absence Portal](#) to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Get Help](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health at Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require Western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.