

ECO 7408: Math Methods for Economics

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Thomas Knight

Email: thomas.knight@ufl.edu

Office: Matherly Hall 224

CLASS MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

We will meet each Monday and Wednesday, 9:35-11:30am, in Matherly Hall 115.

This is a face-to-face class. Your attendance at live lectures is expected. There are no remote attendance or participation options.

I will hold office hours each Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00-10:00am.

REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

- Required: Bergin, Mathematics for Economists with Applications, Routledge (ISBN: 9780415638289)
- Required: Simon and Blume, Mathematics for Economics, Norton, 1994 (ISBN: 0393957330)
- Recommended: Schaum's Outline of Introduction to Mathematical Economics, 3rd Edition (McGraw-Hill) (ISBN: 9780071762519)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a half-semester, introductory doctoral course in mathematical economics. We will begin with a quick and simple review of integration. We will then spend the majority of the course covering linear algebra topics, which will be applied to constrained optimization and regression analysis in subsequent courses in the Ph.D. in Economics curriculum. We will conclude with a brief overview of differential and difference equations.

It is assumed that you are comfortable with differentiation and have experience taking partial derivatives. If this is not the case, please speak to me before the end of the Drop/Add period.

CORE REQUIREMENTS

1. Continued enrollment in this course is equivalent to acceptance of all stated responsibilities, policies, and due dates. If there is anything that is unclear, talk to me *immediately*. Waiting until the end of the term often results in less favorable outcomes.
2. Students are expected to attend all meetings and participate actively. I encourage you to ask questions during these lectures to make the classroom environment as interactive and engaging as possible.
3. Students are expected to complete five analytic problem sets. These problem sets relate to the topics of the preceding lectures, are intended to offer you practice with the relevant solution techniques, and should help prepare you for the final exam.
4. There is a cumulative final exam that is required for successful completion of this course. This exam is a closed-book exam, and is to be taken individually. As the course progresses, I will explain the structure and composition of the exam.

COURSE COMMUNICATIONS

Announcements concerning the class will typically be made during class meetings and by email. You are responsible for all information made available through both of these avenues of communication. It is assumed that you are attending each lecture, and that you are regularly monitoring your UF email account (i.e., checking it daily).

I will not use the Canvas messaging feature, nor respond to these messages. I archive all email messages, and Canvas does not generate a usable record of our correspondence. Send all email correspondence to thomas.knight@ufl.edu.

COURSE GRADING POLICY

Grades are calculated and assigned according to a total point system. There are 100 possible points, and the breakdown is as follows:

- 1) Each of the 5 Problem Sets is worth 10 possible points.
- 2) The Final Exam is worth 50 possible points.

I will use this calculation to determine each student's within class standing and assign final grades based on that information.

Make-up assignments and exams will be arranged *only* for absences that are explicitly covered by the [UF Attendance Policy](#). Whenever possible, you should reach out at least five business days in advance to arrange a make-up assignment or exam. Of course, this will not always be possible. Unforeseen absences and emergencies occur and can be excused without such advance notice. In most cases, you will be asked to provide evidence or documentation of an absence that is explicitly excused by the [UF Attendance Policy](#). Absences related to religious holidays and worship do not require this documentation.

The above grading policies are consistent with UF policies regarding grade determination. This information can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

FINAL EXAM

The Final Exam will be administered during our final course class meeting at 9:35am on Wednesday, October 11. This is a closed book/closed note exam. All students must compete this exam synchronously (i.e., at the same time) to maintain academic integrity. If you are more than 10 minutes late, you will not be able to complete the exam.

Non-programmable, four-function and scientific calculators are allowed; no other calculators are permitted. You may not use a graphing calculator or any device with communications abilities. The use of cell phones, PDAs, or any other programmable device during an exam is not allowed, and violating this policy constitutes a violation of the University of Florida Student Honor Code.

PROBLEM SET GUIDELINES

There are five problem sets required for successful completion this course. These problem sets are designed to provide you with practice with the theories, models, and analytical tools covered in the course. My hope is that these problem sets will assist you in understanding of the technical content of this course, and in preparing for the final exam.

You should submit a PDF file into Canvas by the deadline. Your scanned submission should be high-quality and professionally presented. Your handwriting must be legible, and graphs must be accurate. Responses that are not clearly correct and presented professionally will not earn credit. Late submissions will not be accepted.

You may work in groups, but each student is responsible for turning in his or her own work, which must include his or her own individual mathematical derivations and written explanations.

PROBLEM SET SCHEDULE

<u>Problem Set</u>	<u>Opening Date</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Problem Set 1	Wednesday, Aug. 23 @ 11:30am	Wednesday, Aug. 30 @ 9:30am
Problem Set 2	Wednesday, Aug. 30 @ 11:30am	Monday, Sept. 11 @ 9:30am
Problem Set 3	Monday, Sept. 11 @ 11:30am	Monday, Sept. 18 @ 9:30am
Problem Set 4	Monday, Sept. 18 @ 11:30am	Monday, Sept. 25 @ 9:30am
Problem Set 5	Monday, Sept. 25 @ 11:30am	Wednesday, Oct. 4 @ 9:30am

ACADEMIC HONESTY

You may collaborate on the Problem Sets, but you should turn in your own submission that represents your own efforts and analyses. The final exam is taken individually, and collaboration is explicitly prohibited.

You are expected to abide by the University's rules for academic honesty. These rules are available for your review at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/honor-code/>.

I take these rules very seriously and am committed to upholding the policies and integrity of the University of Florida and the Ph.D. in Economics program. Cheating, plagiarism, or any other behavior that violates these rules will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

SPECIAL NEEDS AND GENERAL COMMENTS ON WELLNESS

If you are a student with special needs and you require additional resources to participate successfully in this course, please contact me during the first week of classes. The Disability Resource Center may provide reasonable accommodations to support your success. Once you obtain documentation from the DRC, please forward it to me, and accommodations can be arranged.

Graduate School is an exciting learning experience and a unique opportunity for personal growth. It can, however, also be a stressful and difficult transitional period. If you are ever having general issues with your coursework *in any course* or trouble in your personal life, please seek help from myself or another faculty member. I also encourage you to utilize the *FREE* and *ANONYMOUS* services of the UF Counseling and Wellness Center.

NOTE ON END-OF-TERM COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of each term, you have the ability to evaluate the quality of each of your courses and the effectiveness of your instructors. I encourage you to take this opportunity seriously and to provide serious and informative feedback. Personally, I am always trying to improve my courses – tweaking them bit-by-bit each term – and student feedback is essential to making real improvements. As the term nears an end, I will discuss this opportunity in lecture, as I believe the high quality of your education depends on your constructive criticism and affirming support. You can access end-of-term course evaluations at:

<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>

HEALTH COUNSELING AND EMERGENCIES

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Wednesday, Aug. 23 Syllabus and Introduction to Integral Calculus
Reading: Syllabus, Chapter 14 (B), Appendix 4 (SB)
Problem Set 1 opens @ 11:30am
- Monday, Aug. 28 Integral Calculus
Chapter 14 (B), Appendix 4 (SB)
- Wednesday, Aug. 30 Introduction to Linear Algebra
Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (B), Chapter 6 (SB)
Problem Set 1 due @ 9:30am
Problem Set 2 opens @ 11:30am
- Monday, Sept. 4 NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
- Wednesday, Sept. 6 Introduction to Linear Algebra
Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (B), Chapter 6 (SB)
- Monday, Sept. 11 Solving Linear Systems
Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (B), Chapter 7 (SB)
Problem Set 2 due @ 9:30am
Problem Set 3 opens @ 11:30am
- Wednesday, Sept. 13 Matrix Algebra
Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (B), Chapter 8 (SB)
- Monday, Sept. 18 The Determinant, Linear Dependence, and Cramer's Rule
Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 (B), Chapters 9 and 11 (SB)
Problem Set 3 due @ 9:30am
Problem Set 4 opens @ 11:30am
- Wednesday, Sept. 20 Introduction to Eigen Values and Dynamics*
Reading: Chapter 15 (B), Chapter 23 (SB)
- Monday, Sept. 25 Implicit Functions
Reading: Chapter 7 (B), Chapter 15 (SB)
Problem Set 4 due @ 9:30am
Problem Set 5 opens @ 11:30am
- Wednesday, Sept. 27 Introduction to Difference and Differential Equations
Reading: Chapters 16 and 17 (B), Chapters 24 and 25 (SB)
- Monday, Oct. 2 Introduction to Difference and Differential Equations
Reading: Chapters 16 and 17 (B), Chapters 24 and 25 (SB)

Wednesday, Oct. 4 Introduction to Difference and Differential Equations
Reading: Chapters 16 and 17 (B), Chapters 24 and 25 (SB)
Problem Set 5 due @ 9:30am

Monday, Oct. 9 Exam Review

Wednesday, Oct. 11 Final Exam (@ 9:35am)