

ECON 309-005

Syllabus for Intro Statistics & Econometrics (Rev. 0)

ECON 309 (Rev. 0)	TR 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM	Econ 1004
<p>INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dave Dixon Econ 2032 (505) 886-1811 ddixon@unm.edu</p> <p>See Canvas for Student Drop-in hours.</p>	<p>STANDBY INSTRUCTOR:</p>	<p>Prof. Alok Bohara (505) 277-5304 bohara@unm.edu</p> <p>See Canvas for Student Drop-in hours.</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT: Economics Economics Bldg (#57) (505) 277-5304</p>	<p>Canvas: ECON-309-005 (Spring 2023)</p>	

COVID-19 Special Considerations

UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations

UNM requires COVID-19 vaccination and a booster for all students, faculty, and staff, or an approved exemption. For details, see UNM Administrative Mandate on Required Vaccinations).

UNM Requirement on Masking in Indoor Spaces

Starting July 5, 2022, UNM is recommending that masks be worn indoors at all UNM campuses. The University, City, County, or State may modify mask requirements at any time based on changing rates of COVID-19 infection. Check <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu/index.html> regularly.

COVID-19 Symptoms and Positive Test Results

Please do not come to a UNM campus if you are experiencing symptoms of illness, or have received a positive COVID-19 test (even if you have no symptoms). Contact your instructors and let them know that you should not come to class due to symptoms or diagnosis. Students who need support addressing a health or personal event or crisis can find it at the Lobo Respect Advocacy Center.

Communication on change in modality

The President and Provost of UNM may direct that classes move to remote delivery at any time to preserve the health and safety of the students, instructor and community. Please check Canvas regularly for updates about our class and please check <https://bringbackthepack.unm.edu> regularly for general UNM updates about COVID-19 and the health of our community.

Acceptable masks and mask wearing in class

A two-layer mask that covers the nose and mouth and that is cleaned regularly is acceptable, as are disposable medical masks, KN95, KF94, FFP1 and FFP2 masks. A face shield is not sufficient protection. It is vital that you wear your mask correctly, covering your nose and mouth. Removing your mask for an extended period to eat or drink in class violates the university mask requirement and endangers others.

Standby instructor

In the event that the regular instructor contracts COVID-19 and must remain off campus during recovery, a standby instructor will take over the class during that time. Do not contact the standby instructor with questions about this class unless that instructor is actually teaching the class.

Course Description

Greek *oikonomía* household management and Greek *metrikós* measuring [<http://www.webster.com>].

According to Webster's, the word econometrics was coined in the early 1930s. Econometrics is built on a foundation of probability and statistics, and is most commonly focused on quantifying economic phenomena. More broadly, however, the concepts and tools of econometrics are applied to causal, statistical, and behavioral models in myriad fields. This course will integrate basic topics in probability and statistics with the econometric method of ordinary least squares (OLS). Key topics from probability and statistics include expected value and descriptive statistics. Expected value is important in hypothesis testing and in understanding the relationship between sample statistics and population statistics. Descriptive statistics are essential in analyzing data sets in terms of known distributions. The course will rely heavily upon the statistical and mathematical prerequisites (MATH 1350 and MATH 1220) and will assume knowledge of basic economics (ECON 2110 and 2120). The purpose of this course is familiarity with the basic concepts of econometrics, understanding of the method of OLS, and the ability to immediately interpret the output from standard econometric tools.

COURSE OUTLINE

Topics covered in this course:

- Introduction (weeks 1 and 2)
 - About econometrics, methodology, terms and concepts
- Probability (week 3)
 - Random variables, conditional probability, rules of probability
- Distributions (weeks 4 and 5)
 - Mean, variance, standard deviation, skew, kurtosis, covariance
- Common distributions (weeks 6 through 8)
 - Normal, standard normal, t-distribution, F-distribution
 - Sampling
 - Central Limit Theorem
- Hypothesis testing (week 10)
 - Expected values and estimators, random sampling, confidence intervals

- OLS (weeks 11 through 14)
 - Linear regression, least squares, R-squared
 - Coefficient significance testing, adjusted R-squared
- Nonlinear regression (weeks 15 and 16)
 - Logarithms, polynomials, dichotomous variables, interaction variables

COURSE FORMAT

Web Enhanced Lecture: This means regular class meetings (lectures) plus Canvas for homework, communication and administration. Administration includes announcements, assignment due dates, special readings and online discussions. Administration also includes course progress and grades. You will need your UNM NetID (login) to use Canvas.

Using Canvas

Go to <https://canvas.unm.edu/>. After you login, your Dashboard should include
ECON-309-005 (Spring 2023)

To find out more about Canvas, click the Help link on the left side menu of your Canvas page.

Introductory econometrics is, ideally, a Lab course. Econometrics is a dangerous tool, however, when wielded without some mastery of the theory. Lecture time will focus on theory and interpretation of results. Lab time will be devoted to setting up the Labs, which will be completed as homework. For this course, each student will choose a preferred software platform: R or Stata. See the section below on Software. We will discuss the software choice in the first Lab.

There will be 10 online homework assignments in Canvas, the lowest two grades will be dropped. There will be 8 Lab report assignments getting progressively more complex over the semester. The required format for the Lab reports is posted on Canvas. Lab assignments are also posted on Canvas. Please contact me as soon as possible if you're having any problems with the homework or the Labs, with online course components, or with any of the course material.

Schedule

The official course schedule is posted in Canvas and is subject to change. Check it often.

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

Each topic we cover also has its own learning objectives that correspond to one or more of the following course learning objectives.

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of probability and statistics and basic expected value theory.

2. Define the relationship between population statistics and sample statistics.
3. Analyze data set variables in terms of their descriptive statistics and similarity to known distributions.
4. Integrate the theoretical components of probability and statistics with the practical application of hypothesis testing.
5. Explain the method of ordinary least squares.
6. Interpret basic econometric results.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites for this course are MATH 1350 (formerly STAT 145), ECON 2110 (formerly ECON 105), and ECON 2120 (formerly ECON 106). It may be handy to refer to your textbooks for these courses. Much of this information is available online and there are links in the Refresher folder on the Usefull Stuff page. If you need a review, please see the links in the Refresher folder in the Usefull Stuff link on Canvas.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

In order to participate and succeed in this class, you will need to be able to perform the following basic technical tasks:

- Use UNM Canvas (help documentation located in Help link on left course menu, and also at <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/>).
- Use Canvas Inbox – including attaching files, opening files, downloading attachments
- Copy and paste within applications including Microsoft Office.
- Open a hyperlink (click on a hyperlink to get to a website or online resource).
- Download and read PDF documents. Save PDF documents from Word or other word processing application.
- Use a word processing application such as LyX, OpenOffice or LibreOffice Writer, or Microsoft Office Word that outputs PDF documents.
- Create and edit equations in the word processing application of choice (Equation Editor in Word, OpenOffice or LibreOffice Writer; equation and equationarray environments in LyX)
- Copy and paste within applications including Microsoft Office, LibreOffice, or OpenOffice.
- One of:
 - Use of an R compiler and R editor like RStudio
 - Use of Stata
- Save PDF documents from Microsoft Office, OpenOffice, or LibreOffice.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Computer

As an in-person class, this course does not require the student to own a personal computer. All of the computer-based activities can be completed on computers publicly available on campus, although Stata is only generally available in the computer lab in the Economics Building. As a computer-intensive course, however, the student will find it most convenient to have ready access to a computer (desktop or laptop) with all of the following capabilities.

- A supported browser (either Firefox or Chrome).
- Any computer capable of running a recently updated web browser should be sufficient to access your online course. However, bear in mind that processor speed, amount of RAM and Internet connection speed can greatly affect performance. Many locations offer free high-speed Internet access including UNM's Computer Pods (<http://it.unm.edu/pods/locations.html>).
- Word processing software for formatting Lab reports:
 - Microsoft Office products are available free for all UNM students (more information on the UNM IT Software Distribution and Downloads page: <http://it.unm.edu/software/index.html>)
 - LyX is available free for download from <https://www.lyx.org/Download>
 - OpenOffice is available free for download from <https://www.openoffice.org/download/>
 - LibreOffice is available free for download from <https://www.libreoffice.org/download/download/>
- Either R/RStudio or Stata for Labs:
 - R is becoming a standard in academic and professional circles. It is available in multiple computer pods on campus, including the computer lab in the Economics Building. For your personal computer, R and RStudio are free:
 - * Download and install R first from <https://cran.rstudio.com/>.
 - * Then download and install RStudio from <https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/#download>.
 - Stata is the most professional econometric software. It is standard in graduate programs and at large firms. It is available in the computer lab in the Economics Building. For your personal computer:
 - * Stata is available to students for as little as \$48 for a six-month license. See <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>.

For UNM Canvas Technical Support: (505) 277-0857 (24/7) or go to <https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/>.

Tracking Course Activity UNM Canvas automatically records all students' activities including: your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion

messages you have read and sent, web conferencing, discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty.

Reading

If the schedule shows reading due for a class meeting, that reading must be completed before arriving for that class. Students will be required to take Reading Quiz in class on the reading material due that day. Taking the quiz will count toward class participation, with the actual quiz grade averaged into your overall grade for quizzes.

Homework

If the schedule shows a homework problem set due on a date, the homework is due before 11:59 PM of that day.

Canvas Down or System-wide Failure

If Canvas is unexpectedly unavailable for a significant amount of time and/or at the time assignments are due the instructor will send an email via LoboMail and extend the deadline when Canvas becomes available. In the event of a system-wide failure that includes LoboMail, the instructor will make adjustments to the schedule as appropriate and announce them when the system becomes available.

Lab Reports

If the schedule shows a Lab Report due on a date, the Lab Report is due before 11:59 PM on the due date. Lab Reports turned in late will have the credit reduced by five percent for each day late (which compounds quickly - see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compound_interest). The grader may ask you to revise your report, in which case there is no late penalty, provided it is resubmitted before the next Lab Report is due. There really is no time to catch up in this course, so I reserve the right to drop any student with an assignment that is more than a week overdue unless that student has made other arrangements. Lab reports must be submitted as a PDF.

Participation

Students are expected to participate in discussions, in-class problem solving and exercises, and online discussions. Credit for this course includes a participation component (see COURSE REQUIREMENTS below), which can be either positive or negative. For example, frequent absence reduces the opportunities for participation and may result in negative participation credit. Similarly, disrespectful conduct, either in the classroom or online, will not be tolerated and will result in negative participation credit.

TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Assignments are due beginning the first day. It is the student's responsibility to have all the required material before the course starts.

Required Textbook

Real Econometrics - The Right Tools to Answer Important Questions, by Michael A. Bailey. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780190296827. Sources:

- UNM Bookstore lists it for \$129.99 new, rental for \$108, and eBook for \$107.98.
- Oxford University Press \$129.99 plus shipping (\$5.50 when I checked it)
<https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/real-econometrics-9780190296827>.
 - There's a link to buy the eBook from VitalSource for \$59.99 plus tax.
- I've seen it for \$105 new and \$25 used from online merchants.

Required Supplementary Materials

You will choose to do your Labs in this course in R or Stata. You should read this web page before the course starts:

<http://www.unm.edu/~ddixon/classes/EconometricsSoftware.html>

This page discusses the advantages and disadvantages of each and includes instructions for downloading and installing the program(s) to your computer.

You will have to make the choice in the first few days of the course, so don't hesitate to ask me any questions you have about which environment to use. Definitely read the page above, but to summarize, what you need depends on what you choose:

R We will use RStudio which is free.

Stata A student version of Stata is available for as little as \$48 for a 6-month license.

Exams

In 100-200 level courses, exam questions will be nearly identical to homework problems. In 300-level courses, exam problems will be similar to homework with some expectation that the student will be able to adapt to changes in numerical values or answer components (e.g. homework asked for equilibrium quantity, exam asks for equilibrium price, or exam problem combines multiple problems from the problem sets). In 400-level courses, exam problems will address the same topics as homework, with the expectation that students are able to extrapolate from familiar applications to similar but unfamiliar applications. I will typically warn you if something in class is likely to appear on an exam, but it is possible that something from the reading will appear on an exam that hasn't been discussed in class.

JITT

JITT (just-in-time teaching) is way for students to have some control over the curriculum. When you do the required reading, most of what you read will be clear to you, but a few things would be clearer with some discussion. To ensure that students take responsibility for this control, you will be required to make a post to the JITT discussion in Canvas *at least* once each week. JITT posts can include questions or comments about the homework or an exam question, or to make constructive comments in reply to a post by another student.

ONLINE CONTENT

This course will include online content posted on Canvas. **Please do not leave online work to the last minute – assignments missed due to technical difficulties will receive the highest level of sympathy, but no grade allowances.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

		Grading (% of total grade)
EXAMS	3 progressive exams (not cumulative, but subsequent exams will build on the material from earlier ones.) Exam 3 is during finals week.	(20%)
HOMEWORK	10 online assignments Late assignments will have 5% credit reduced for each day late	Best 8 out of 10 (20%)
LABS	8 Lab assignments Late assignments will have 5% credit reduced for each day late	(20%)
PARTICIPATION	All students are expected to participate in solving problems in class, in-class exercises, reading quizzes, and general discussions. This includes participating in JITT discussions.	(20%)
QUIZZES	There will be a Reading Quiz at the beginning of lecture whenever reading is due (see schedule). In addition to the participation credit mentioned above, the quiz grades will count, too.	(20%)

COMMUNICATION

The instructor and TA(s) will use Canvas Announcements for general communication. For questions or discussion about the course and its content, the best time to communicate is in class. Outside of class, the best way for you to communicate is through Canvas on either the JITT discussion (see the section above) or the Inbox tool (more on that below).

* If you have a question about the course, please review this document first as most questions have already been answered here.

If you have a question about the course content or something that is not answered in this document, please first post your question to the JITT discussion in Canvas. When you post on the JITT discussion, the teaching team is notified by email. By asking and answering questions on this shared discussion, it will considerably shorten the response time for you and for other students with the same question. You can subscribe to the discussion by navigating to it then clicking the Subscribe button.

Never send an Inbox message to all Teaching Assistants. Some of the people listed as Teaching Assistants are actually UNM support people or other instructors observing the course. You should only communicate directly with a TA when that TA has contacted you first. In almost all cases, contact the instructor and no one else.

Canvas Inbox/Email

Of course, if you have a confidential matter to discuss (e.g., your grade), please use Canvas Inbox. We use Inbox to protect your confidentiality and to have a reliable record of communication. For these reasons, the instructor will not respond to any email messages except in an emergency (e.g. a natural disaster, not "I forgot to do the assignment").

GETTING SUPPORT

Student Drop-in Hours, Appointments, and CAPS Online Tutoring

The instructor and TA(s) will hold regularly scheduled Student Drop-in Hours hours. Campus drop-in hours are located on UNM's main campus in the Economics Building (#57). See Canvas for drop-in hour schedules, office locations, and contact info. CAPS provides statistics helps. Also, always feel free to set up an appointment with the instructor.

Canvas Technical Support

If you have a Canvas technical difficulty, but are able to login to Canvas, please click the Help link from our course page. If you are unable to log in to Canvas, please contact Canvas technical support at (<https://canvasinfo.unm.edu/support/index.html>) or phone 505-277-0857 (1-877-688-8817 outside Albuquerque).

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be determined from the table below, rounding your Course Average to the nearest whole percent - **NO EXCEPTIONS**. A student will receive an A+ grade only if the score is 96% or above before extra credit.

Course Average	Grade	Course Average	Grade	Course Average	Grade	Course Average	Grade
≥ 96%	A+	86-89%	B+	76-79%	C+	66-69%	D+
93-95%	A	83-85%	B	73-75%	C	63-65%	D
90-92%	A-	80-82%	B-	70-72%	C-	60-62%	D-

A Course Average below 60% is a failing grade.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506, <http://as2.unm.edu/>) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office. **NOTE:** Students planning to take exams at the ARC must schedule those exams **more than one week** before the exam day. Otherwise it may not be possible to accommodate the exam request. Exam dates are published at the beginning of the semester: make your appointments then.

UNM POLICIES

Accommodations

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as I am not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 277-3506 or arcsrvs@unm.edu for additional information.

UNM is committed to providing courses that are inclusive and accessible for all participants. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an accessible classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity. If you are experiencing physical or academic barriers, or concerns related to mental health, physical health and/or COVID-19, please consult with me after class, via email/phone or during Student Drop-In Hours. You are also encouraged to contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone 277-3506. Accessibility statements:

- Canvas: <https://www.instructure.com/products/canvas/accessibility>
- Microsoft: <https://www.microsoft.com/enable/microsoft/mission.aspx>

Credit-hour statement

This is a three credit-hour course. Class meets for 30 sessions of direct instruction for fifteen weeks during the Spring 2023 semester. Students are expected to complete a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Title IX

Our classroom and our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment, or violence. Should you ever need assistance or have concerns about incidents that violate this principle, please access the resources available to you on campus, especially the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center and the support services listed on its website (<http://loborespect.unm.edu/>). Please note that, because UNM faculty, TAs, and GAs are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education, any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported by that faculty member, TA, or GA to the university's Title IX coordinator at the Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, please see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>.

Citizenship and/or Immigration Status

All students are welcome in this class regardless of citizenship, residency, or immigration status. Your professor will respect your privacy if you choose to disclose your status. As for all students in the class, family emergency-related absences are normally excused with reasonable notice to the professor, as noted in the attendance guidelines above. UNM as an institution has made a core commitment to the success of all our students, including members of our undocumented community. The Administration's welcome is found on our website: <http://undocumented.unm.edu/>.

Land Acknowledgement

Founded in 1889, the University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.

Copyright Issues

All materials in this course fall under copyright laws and should not be downloaded, distributed, or used by students for any purpose outside this course. Misuse is subject to disciplinary procedures.

Doing the Right Thing

UNM has policies to preserve and protect you and the academic community available in the Student Pathfinder as well as in the Faculty Handbook. These include policies on student grievances D175 (undergraduates) and D176 (graduate and professional students), academic dishonesty (D100), and respectful campus (CO9). Please ask for help in understanding and avoiding plagiarism (passing the work or words of others off as your own work or words) or other

forms academic dishonesty. Doing something dishonest in a class or on an assignment can lead to serious academic consequences. Come talk with me about your concerns or needs for academic flexibility or talk with support staff at one of our student resource centers before you do something that may endanger your career.

Drop Policy

Please contact the instructor via Inbox if you feel that dropping this course will best serve your academic career.

UNM Policies: This course falls under all UNM policies for last day to drop courses, etc. Please see <http://www.unm.edu/studentinfo.html> or the UNM Course Catalog for information on UNM services and policies. Please see the UNM academic calendar for course dates, the last day to drop courses without penalty, and for financial disenrollment dates.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS

Laptops, tablets, smartphones, MP3 players, etc. must be used with consideration. In particular, students using laptops are encouraged to sit at the back of the lecture hall so they do not distract other students. Any student whose electronic device appears to be distracting other students will be asked to terminate use.

UNM RESOURCES

Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) <http://as2.unm.edu/>

CAPS Tutoring Services <http://caps.unm.edu/programs/online-tutoring/>

CAPS is a free-of-charge educational assistance program available to UNM students enrolled in classes. Online services include the Online Writing Lab, Chatting with or asking a question of a tutor.

Lobo Food Pantry <https://loborespect.unm.edu/services/campus-lobo-food-pantry.html>

Student Health & Counseling (SHAC) <https://shac.unm.edu/>

UNM Libraries <http://library.unm.edu>

SOFTWARE: R OR STATA?

The labs for this course are available in either R or Stata. Each has advantages and disadvantages which I outline below. Students must choose which software to use for the duration of this course because every project builds on previous projects. If you want to work on your project outside of lab (as all students end up doing) it will be good to have a computer with the software you need. If you don't have one of your own, then you will be using a UNM computer. That may influence your decision, too.

- R
 - Advantages
 - * **Free:** R is the premier free software for statistical and econometric applications as well as high-quality graphing.
 - * **Advanced career path:** If you are planning to do graduate studies in economics or a related field, chances are you'll encounter R again. Knowledge of R will be an asset for most careers that require a graduate degree.
 - * **Easy to document:** R is a procedural language (a step-by-step computer program). That means that you, or someone else who understands R, just has to read the file (usually 10 to 20 lines) to see exactly what it's doing.
 - * **RStudio**, the R editor we will be using, is pretty user friendly and has a lot of useful capabilities.
 - Disadvantages
 - * **It's a computer language:** Though much less complicated than spreadsheets for linear regressions, you have to do a few things to set up a program (4 or 5 lines in your R file) that you don't have to do in a spreadsheet. So there's a learning curve (though many students find it easier than what you have to do in spreadsheets).
 - * **Not generally available on UNM computers:** I had to make a special request to get R on our lab computers. You can download and install R on your own computer(s). But it's not available on all UNM computers (although it is available on some).
 - Installing RStudio
 - * Download and install R from <https://cran.rstudio.com/>
 - * Download and install RStudio from <https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/#download>
- Stata
 - Advantages
 - * **Advanced studies:** Economics graduate courses at UNM (and elsewhere) use Stata.
 - * **Advanced career path:** Stata is the semi-official econometrics tool of the economics profession.
 - * **Easy to document:** Stata is a procedural language (a step-by-step computer program). That means that you, or someone else who understands Stata, just has to read the file (usually 20 to 50 lines) to see exactly what it's doing.
 - Disadvantages
 - * **Expensive:** Stata is expensive if you have to buy it for your own computer (\$1200 to \$1700). There is a six-month student edition available for \$45. There may be some labs for which the small version of Stata (1200 observations) will not work. You can do the regression for this lab in the Econ computer pod.

- * **Complicated:** Stata was developed in the early days of computers, and it has a very old-school feel. It's hard to remember commands, hard to guess them, and the documentation, though there's plenty of it, is hard to use.
 - * **Not generally available on UNM computers:** Stata is available on all the computers in the Econ pod.
- To purchase and download Stata
- * <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>

REAL WORLD DATA

The data sets used in exercises for this course come from textbook authors who have selected them for a specific reason: they work. Some students ask to do a project using real-world data, and I remind them of what Josiah Stamp (appointed director of the Bank of England in 1928) once said: "The government are very keen on amassing statistics. They collect them, add them, raise them to the nth power, take the cube root and prepare wonderful diagrams. But you must never forget that every one of these figures comes in the first instance from the village watchman, who just puts down what he damn pleases."

NO WHINING

The top three whines of ECON 309 students are:

1. We didn't learn this in MATH 1350 / STAT 145
2. Software always messes up
3. My laptop was: stolen / traded for meth by my roommate / peed on by my cat / really my little sister's and she took it back

As far as MATH 1350 / STAT 145 is concerned, I've put a link on the Usefull Stuff page to the web page with past MATH 1350 / STAT 145 exams. **It's all in there.** That you chose to completely forget it after taking the class was a personal decision that, I hope, you now regret. At any rate, it's not my problem, it's yours. This course begins with a review of that material, but it is intended as a **review**. If you have difficulty with the probability and statistics we cover, it is your responsibility to get help from CAPS, the econ tutors, a graduate student, another professor, or even schedule time to come to my Student Drop-in hours. Student Drop-in hours are the loneliest time of my life, and it would brighten my day to help you with statistics, but **you** have to make it happen.

Software is also not my problem. I am giving students the choice to use R or Stata for this course (see that section above). I will provide all the support you want to write, debug, and interpret your Labs, but **problems with software are never an acceptable excuse for a late assignment.** Period. You know yourself - if you tend to have problems with software, do the Labs earlier rather than later, and schedule time to come to my office. No whining.

Problems with your personal computer or computers in UNM pods are frustrating, but there's nothing I can do about them. There is something you can do, however. First, back up your work. You have some file space on OneDrive, for example. Use it. That way, when the dog eats your laptop, you just have to walk 25 miles through the blizzard, hiding from the werewolves and

dodging the zombies, to a UNM computer pod, and continue working on your lab. Your future depends on it.