Most course material and all grades will be reported in http://Springboard.uakron.edu – check after the first assignment is graded. Other files may be on departmental servers as noted below.

This is a course designed to establish a baseline of competency in computer usage among all economic majors and minors and other interested students and to increase your ability to understand and apply economics. This course will establish a number of minimum competencies that students must have before entering the world of work as an economic analyst. You will complete modules on (1) Thinking like an economist, (2) Data handling, (3) Survey Research, (4) Team based research, and (5) Developing your personal Economic Portfolio.

Prerequisite: 3250:100 or 3250:200 or 3250:244
Instructional Days: August 31, 2015 to December 13, 2015
Last day to withdraw: October 19, 2015 (talk to your advisor)
Scheduled Final Examination time: Wed. December 14, 2014, 12:15-2:15 PM (however there is no final exam)

Plan of the course:

This course will direct the student to learn a variety of computer skills, but will not teach those skills primarily. Rather, the application of those tools to economic analysis is the overarching goal of the class. Evaluation of student competency for each module will be the ability to communicate economic analysis, not just the demonstration of the computer methods. In fact, students are expected to use economic concepts and tools from the prerequisite principles classes to conduct economic analysis.

Each competency or module will require the student to:

- Learn and communicate knowledge via computer skills.
- Explore a topic in economics or economic analysis particularly addressable by the computing skill in question.
- Present formally the economic analysis using the newly-qualified computing tool.

There are five modules to the course. The content within the modules and the referenced assignments are subject to change during the course.

1. Thinking Like an Economist
   a. Economics in one lesson
   b. Setting up a social presence
   c. Writing an Economic Essay on something that makes you curious
2. Data Handling
   a. Using SAS
   b. Using Excel for data handling
   c. Converting PDF to text
   d. Using SAS to read Excel (assignment 4)
   e. Writing an Essay on the US Economic Health (assignment 5)
3. Survey research
   a. Using SAS to analyze past survey data from this class (assignment 6)
   b. Revise the survey instrument and then conduct survey interviews (assignment 7)
   c. Using the 2009-2014 merged data, form a research question and write an analysis of that question (assignment 8 – a group assignment or team based research)
   d. Using PowerPoint for presentations
4. Team based research
   a. Collecting economic data and merging them for analysis
b. Developing a research question and analyzing it (assignment 9)
c. How to write a research paper
d. Presenting your findings (assignment 10)
5. Developing a personal Economic Portfolio (assignment 11)
   a. Expected learning outcomes or proficiencies for all economics graduates
   b. How to code in HTML and write a webpage that is your portfolio
   c. How to use JavaScript to create navigation in your page
   d. Writing a resume
   e. Setting educational and career goals
   f. Writing artifacts and reflections

Evaluation:

Most of the assignments will require you to submit to the appropriate dropbox in Springboard. Some alternative turn-in arrangements will be different and explained in class.

The student will be evaluated on each module according to the following criteria:
- Computer: Demonstrated competency in using the computer tool.
- Resources: Demonstrated skill in knowing and using the resources needed to succeed in the module, and
- Economics: An assessment of the content of the economic support document, economic facts and economic analysis.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned for each module.

The modules will make up 75% of the final grade, while 25% will be allocated to the final portfolio production and its evaluation. While the portfolio is only 25%, it is 100% required to graduate.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be essential to have access to the projects and instructions for each week. Absences, when noticed, will be recorded and will represent a detriment to the course grade.

Required Books & Materials:

1. Every Student must have a USB data storage device that they have with them at every class. It must only have information from this class in case I or my assistant will ever need to use it.

   http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1612903436/ref=as_li_tl?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=1612903436&linkCode=as2&tag=teachingand05-20&linkId=RDJQMTBSSEYHMZKT


4. SAS Documentation (look for Base SAS / SAS/Stat and SAS/ETS primarily)
   http://support.sas.com/documentation/

Recommended Books:


http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0073523194/ref=as_li_ss_til?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0073523194&linkCode=as2&tag=teachingand05-20

Companion Web Site http://www.econsources.com

Computer Requirements

In order to fully participate in the course, you need to have the following:

1. Each student will need to be familiar with Internet Explorer or another comparable browser. You may use mobile devices for some of your work, but access to a laptop or desktop computer running Windows 7 will be expected.
2. The course outline, grades and other course materials will be posted at http://springboard.uakron.edu.
3. Students must use Google Email http://mail.zips.uakron.edu or forward their UAnet ID to an e-mail address they read often. The Google Apps Student E-Mail System is supported at http://support.uakron.edu/wiki/index.php/Google_Apps_E-Mail
4. Interested students can seek help for off-campus use in the basement of the library. Their phone numbers is (330) 972-6888, or email them at supportdesk@uakron.edu. Hours are on the page listed in the next link under “contact us.” The best URL for help is http://support.uakron.edu.
5. Help in using the university library including full text access from home is here http://www.uakron.edu/libraries/.
6. Much of the work of this course will have to be completed in the Econometrics laboratory at CAS 445 and with access to the economics department server. To use the economics department server each student will have to use VPN for some aspects of the course and will have to link to the E and F drives on the economics server.
   1. E is named \artscifs1\Apps
   2. F is named \artscifs1\Econ_Faculty

Communication Requirements

1. All emails from you must have “E226 Fall 2015” in every subject line and you must always include your first and last name, and your UAnetID in your message. A good place would be in your signature.
2. If I communicate to your UAnet email account I will assume you have read it within a day. There is no exception to this.
3. Use your UAnet email as your primary email address. I can respond to any email address you use, but when I am mailing to you I will either email internally in WebCT or to your UAnet address only.

Some Important Links to bookmark:

http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/library/default.htm
SAS Library from UCLA. Includes a good getting started section.

http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/sas/webbooks/reg/default.htm
SAS Web Books. Regressions with SAS.

http://www.aeaweb.org/RFE/
Resources for Economists

http://Scholar.google.com
Google Scholar

Student portfolios may be accessed from the economics web site or directly here: http://economics.uakron.edu
Software for this course:

- MS Office 2010 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, One Note)
- KompoZer
- Internet Explorer
- SAS 9.4
- Notepad++
- Refworks
- Google Apps at UA

Some Databases for this course

- UA Library Website
- Ohio Link
- Econ Lit
- Lexus/Nexus
- AEA on CD
- JEE on web
- FRED
- Many data websites will be discovered throughout the course.