January 2020: J.W. Galbraith

Official statements:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for further information). According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations, at www.mcgill.ca.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

We reserve the right to use text-matching software.

Books:

Primary text:
Verbeek, M. A guide to modern econometrics. Wiley, UK.

Other texts for reference:


For statistical review:
Software:

You should become familiar with some software are sufficiently flexible to allow you to program new methods and simulations; Matlab, Python and R are all good choices. I use Matlab for most purposes and will use it for examples from time to time in class. If you are starting from scratch and have not learned any of these, Python may now be the best choice. Python and R implementations can be downloaded free; Matlab is available through the McGill website to McGill students.

Stata is convenient for many applied econometric tasks.

Of course, for text editing, you can get Tex and LaTex from www.miktex.org (be-ware of the fake site, www.miktek.org), or through a cloud-based Latex implementation, Overleaf. If you are interested in trying the latter please speak to me.

Evaluation:

Percentages refer to the full-year grade.
December exam (completed): 37.5%
Final exam: 37.5%
Project (due in the last class in April): 25%.

The project is an econometric study comparable in length to what you would find as an applied study in an academic journal, and should be written and presented in the form of a journal article, with title page, abstract, introduction including review of the literature, a description of data and methods, presentation and interpretation of results including integrated graphics and tables, an extensive set of references to the literature, and appendices for additional material.

The project is due on the last day of classes. Prof. Chaudhuri and I will evaluate these projects together.

Office:

Leacock 427.

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, mid-afternoon; I will specify times more precisely later.

If you can’t come during office hourse, please make an appointment in class, not by e-mail to see me at another time.
Topics:

The second term of the course will continue where the first term left off, approxi-
mately covering chapters 6-10 in Verbeek. However, we will not necessarily do these in
order, but instead will attempt to cover the material most immediately useful for your
econometric projects in the first half of the term. For example, we may roughly cover
chapters 8, 7, 10, 6, and then 9, if time permits, in that order. (I am referring here to
the chapter orderings in the second edition of the Verbeek book.)