Economic Research in the Community

(ECON 4670)

Prerequisites: Economics 4660

Course description:

This is the capstone course based on Economics 4660 – Statistical Tools for Applied Economics Research. In this course, students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to assist organizations in the Utah community. Students will work in small teams on assigned community projects that involve statistical and economic analysis leading up to a professional econometric report.

Course learning outcomes:

1. Provide an opportunity to apply econometric knowledge to a real-world project
2. Provide practical hands-on experience solving and managing an econometric project
3. Develop skills in oral presentations and professional report writing
4. Provide real-world professional experience working with clients

Course overview:

This course is devoted to "doing" econometrics. Relatively small groups of students will work closely with clients on selected analyses. Over the course of this semester, students will identify appropriate statistical strategies, organize and collect relevant data, and prepare meaningful reports and presentations. Every week the class will meet and review progress. Although each group will have different assignments and most likely be using different statistical tools, the entire class will benefit from learning about the diversity of issues and discovering commonalities among the clients. During the last month of the semester, the groups will present their results to the entire class.

The projects will generally follow these steps:

1. Project definition and background
2. Data acquisition and preparation
3. Data exploration
4. Data analysis
5. Project completion and recommendations

During the semester the class will be involved in:

Lectures and discussions

1. Visits to the community organizations by the student team for client meetings, project information, data collection and other purposes.
2. Project conceptualization and outline of work.

3. Progress meetings, reports, and team evaluations submitted to faculty mentor as well as oral presentations to the class.
4. A final report consisting of an in-class oral presentation and a written final report presented to the sponsoring organization.
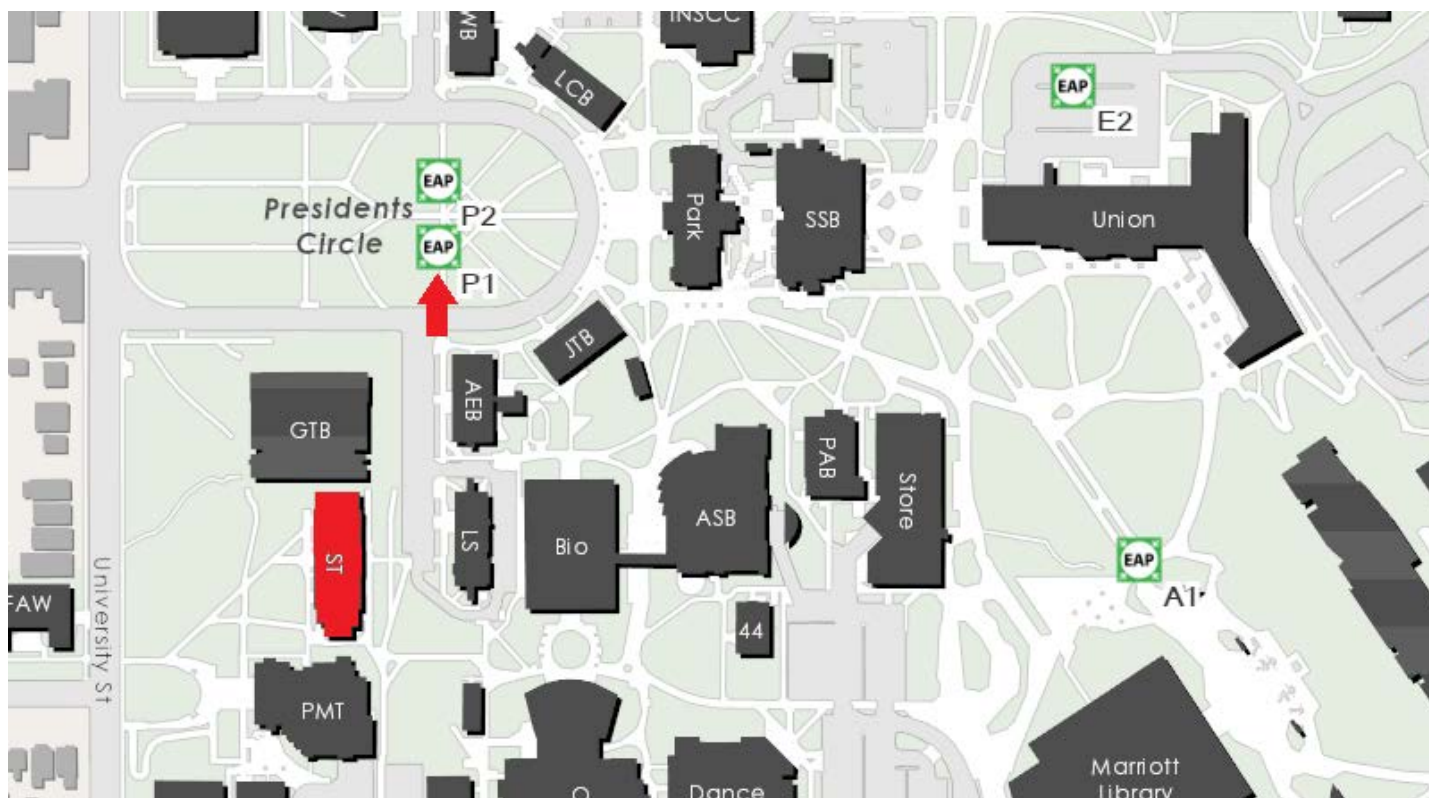
Grading:

Project conceptualization and team development: 45%

Informal progress reports and presentations: 10%

Team evaluations: 45%

(Project concept and evaluation rubrics are provided)

BUILDING EVACUATION

EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate the building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please follow your instructor in an orderly fashion to the EAP marked on the map below. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can also look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.

- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.

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