COURSE INFORMATION

- **Course Hours**: MW 3:05 PM-5:35 PM
- **Course Meeting Location**: Bellamy, Room ??
- **Credit Hours**: 3 hours
- **Prerequisites**: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is specifically designed for MS Economics students and is intended to provide a quick overview of some of the data analysis methods that you may run across in your career as a practicing economist. We will focus particularly on forecasting methods. The course will be organized as a business workshop. As in any business environment, attendance and promptness are critical and expected. Dress will be casual. We will generally meet in our assigned classroom in Bellamy but occasionally we may meet in your computer lab room when we want to focus on some hands-on computer applications.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will:

1. be familiar with the essential techniques in economic forecasting;
2. know how to specify a model that is consistent with economic theory;
3. be able to choose an appropriate statistical method to estimate the model;
4. interpret your estimation and forecast results;
5. prepare a brief technical report using R Markdown that can be easily updated and understood by a non-specialist.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook:

- The required textbook for this course is free and available online from the link on the Canvas page. All other assigned reading material will be posted on the course Canvas page.

Software:

- We will make extensive use of RStudio and R Markdown. You may also occasionally find
Stata, SAS, or Gretl to be useful.

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.
- Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students per the [FSU Academic Honor Policy](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity). Students should not discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, activities, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.
- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking.
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.

### GRADING POLICY

Your course grade will be determined from a series of short "Try It" projects, "Group" projects, and a final project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Try It mini-projects</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, write and upload assignments, post to discussion boards, and take assessments. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices may be used to view course content, upload assignments, and take assessments as determined by the
instructor. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site (https://support.canvas.fsu.edu/kb/article/899-technology-recommendations-for-learning-online-at-fsu).

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**CANVAS SUPPORT**

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

- **Email:** canvas@fsu.edu (mailto:canvas@fsu.edu)
- **Phone:** (850) 644-8004
- **Website:** support.canvas.fsu.edu (http://support.canvas.fsu.edu)
- **Hours:** 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday

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**FSU LIBRARIES RESOURCES & SERVICES**

Whether on campus or learning online, you can access library resources easily (https://lib.fsu.edu/service/campus-access). You'll find databases, tutorials, workshops, and other helpful resources in the FSU Libraries for Students (https://canvas.fsu.edu/courses/102) Canvas org site (all students are enrolled automatically). For recommended research resources and ways to connect with your librarians (https://lib.fsu.edu/service/library-liaisons), look for "Library Tools" in your Canvas course navigation.

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**COURSE POLICIES**

**COMMUNICATIONS/NETIQUETTE**

For Discussions:

- Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
• Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor, and be sensitive to cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
• Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
• Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto" and aim for comments that validate other members’ ideas through careful explanation of why.
• When replying, give a short description in the subject line of what you are replying to, and use correct punctuation and spelling throughout your post.

For Email Communication:
• For email, please respond to your instructor's and peers’ messages within a 24-hour period.
• Use a brief description in the subject line that outlines the topic of discussion.
• Avoid using slang or profane words.
• Use your instructor's correct title he or she prefers for communication.
• Avoid using emoticons, such as smiley faces, and maintain a professional demeanor.
• Sign your email messages using your full name.
• AVOID USING ALL CAPS. This makes the message visually difficult to read and is perceived by the reader as "shouting."
• Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, just as you would for any communication.
• Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
• Refrain from "flaming," which is expressing a strongly held opinion without tact or regard for others. Don't assume that recipients will know the intent of the message (e.g., "just kidding"). It reads differently when it's in print (electronic or not).
• Report any inappropriate communication considered to be of a serious nature to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.
• Treat others with respect by making messages clear and succinct.

PARTICIPATION & LATENESS POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.
POLICY FOR ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments must be turned in on time or penalty points of 10% per day will be charged.

POLICY ON RESPONDING TO STUDENTS

- Email responses typically within 24 to 48 hours.
- Graded assignments typically returned within 1 week after due date.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Please note: Modifications to this policy have been made to accommodate the unique circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see this memo that has been distributed to all faculty and instructional staff regarding the 2020-2021 academic year.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at
Florida State University. (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations (http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).)

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING ACADEMIC PROBLEMS OR GRIEVANCES

Please use this step-by-step guide to resolving academic problems (https://www.fda.fsu.edu/sites/g/files/upcbnu636/files/Media/Files/General%20Academic%20Appeals/Academic_Problem-Solving_Flowchart_Binder_Oct-2020.pdf) to begin the process of communicating with your instructor to resolve any confusion or difficulty you may be having in the course. Detailed information on FSU's grievance procedure, including special instructions for students enrolled in an FSU branch campus, is maintained on the General Bulletin's Academic Integrity & Grievances (https://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/index.cfm) webpage. Out-of-state distance learning students should review the Office of Distance Learning Complaint Resolution (https://distance.fsu.edu/about-us/complaint-resolution) page for additional procedures.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

1. must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS);
2. must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
3. should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.
For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

**Office of Accessibility Services (Tallahassee Campus)**
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)

oas@fsu.edu

https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas

**Student Disability Services (Panama City Campus)**
Office of Student Affairs  
4750 Collegiate Drive  
2nd Floor Barron Building (Room 215)  
Florida State University Panama City  
Panama City, FL 32405  
(850) 770-2172 (office)  
(866) 693-7872 (toll free)

Email: sds@pc.fsu.edu

https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-disability-services

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**FREE TUTORING FROM FSU (TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS)**

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance are available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - see the [Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' website](http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring), or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

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**SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY**

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."
# Course Summary

All course assignments and texts with due dates are listed below. To be successful in this course, be sure to complete all required assignments and tests by the due date.

## Course Summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue Feb 2, 2021</td>
<td>📘 Try it: Exponential smoothing (<a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039820">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039820</a>)</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/syllabus">Syllabus for (ECO5434-0001.sp21) Analysis of Economic Data</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Details</td>
<td>Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 5, 2021</td>
<td>📜 Group: Scenario Forecasts (<a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039816">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039816</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri Feb 26, 2021</td>
<td>📜 Final Project (<a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039813">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039813</a>)</td>
<td>due by 11:59pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>📜 Group: CAPM (<a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039814">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1039814</a>)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>📜 Roll Call Attendance (<a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1138789">https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/157132/assignments/1138789</a>)</td>
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