STATA will provide the convenience of working on class material outside of university computer labs. If you chose to purchase your own copy of STATA, you qualify for a substantial discount through the University's GradPlan. Information is available at: http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-campus.html. Please note that . Current prices for Stata/IC (Intercooled Stata) license are $98 for 1 year and $65 for 6 months.

Hardware:
You will need a USB memory device to store copies of data and log files from our work in class.

Attendance: Attendance is absolutely crucial to success in this class. In order to re-enforce the importance of attendance, it will be factored into final grades. To be clear, these absences are intended to cover both valid (illness, car breaking down) and invalid reasons for missing class. Excused absences will therefore not be granted. I reserve the right to record an absence for students who spend substantial class time on non-class activities.

Homework: Students will regularly work on ungraded exercises during class time to practice course material. Graded homework assignments are not given. Students should, however, plan on taking time outside of class each week to: a) Review log file, class notes and in-class exercises from that week's classes. b) Using STATA and the data files to independently perform the analysis conducted in class in order to review STATA commands, interpretation of output, and key concepts from class lecture and c) using STATA and the data files to perform additional data analysis beyond that conducted in class to further test facility course content. The course material is highly cumulative, so it is important to confirm mastery of each week's material in preparation for the next week's material. It is not sufficient to merely review several weeks of material just before an exam.

Exams: Two midterms and a final exam. The first midterm is scheduled for . The second midterm is scheduled for . The final is scheduled for

Research Paper: The goal of this course is to train you to perform and interpret original analyses of economic data. To that end, you will complete one independent research project, using the skills taught in this course. You will write a paper (roughly 8 pages, double-spaced, including figures and tables) on a topic of interest to you, focusing on original analysis of relevant data. Some course time will be spent teaching you how to download and analyze U.S. Census data, and many students will formulate a research question that can be investigated using Census data. Students are, however, free to pursue other data sources on topics of interest. I will hold individual meetings the week of Apr 8 to make sure that you have found an appropriate topic and data set and provide some individual guidance (class will be cancelled during the week to allow for individual meetings during class time). The research paper is due, in both electronic and hard copy, on the last day of classes, .

Grading

Grades will be based on:
20% Midterm 1 (Wed, Feb 20)
20% Midterm 2 (Fri, Mar 22)
30% Final Research Project (Due Fri, May 3)
30% Final Exam (Mon, May 6, 4:30-7)

Final letter grades will be based on the cumulative performance I would expect from an intelligent and hardworking student.

Missed Class

Material from a Missed Class: If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining the material you missed. There is sufficient overlap with the course pack that reviewing the relevant material there will help, but you should arrange to obtain log file/programs/notes from a classmate (not from the professor), and work through these on your own to catch back up with the class.

Week 1 (Jan 14-18): Introduction and Getting Started in STATA

Week 2 (Jan 23-25): Summarizing Continuous Data

Week 3 (Jan 28-Feb 1): Categorical Data

Week 4 (Feb 4-8): Hypothesis Testing

Week 5 (Feb 11-15): Simple Regression

Week 6: (Feb 18-22)

Week 7 (Feb 25-Mar 1): Non-linear Models, Multiple Regression

Week 8 (Mar 4-8): Categorical Variables, Interaction Models

Week 9 (Mar 11-15): Omitted Variable Bias

Week 10 (Mar 18-22) Standard errors and Multicollinearity

Week 11 (Mar 25-29): spring break

Week 12 (Apr 1-5): IPUMS Tutorial

Week 13 (Apr 8-12): Individual meetings during class time to discuss final projects

Week 14 (Apr 15-19): Advanced topics: Logit Model

Week 15 (Apr 22-26): Advanced Topics: Differences in Differences Models

Week 16 (Apr 29-May 3): Advanced Topics: Fixed-Effects Models