

FARE 6970: Quantitative Methods for Agricultural Economists

INSTRUCTOR Alan Ker
MCLN 314
Telephone: 519-824-4120 ext 53532
E-mail: aker@uoguelph.ca

COURSE LOGISTICS Lecture: Tuesday and Thursdays 8:30-9:50; MCLN 107
Lab: Wednesdays 4:00-5:30 MCLN 101

OFFICE HOURS

I have an open door policy but you can also set up an appointment. The best way to contact me is by email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of this course is for the students to learn common empirical methods that food, agricultural, and resource economists use when conducting research. We will at best only scratch the surface due to time constraints. Emphasis will be placed on econometrics and writing code. We will use R for this course.

TEXTBOOK

There is no required text for this course however a standard graduate level mathematical statistics and econometrics texts will prove most useful.

GRADING

There will be a minimum of 4 homework assignments and a midterm and final exam. Homeworks, midterm, and final exam will each constitute 33.33% of the final grade. Late assignments will be given a zero grade.

TENTATIVE TOPICS COVERED

We will be covering the following topics (not equally weighted):

1. Probability
2. Random Variables
3. Estimation (least squares, robust, mle, gmm, bayesian methods)
4. Hypothesis Testing
5. Programming