MSPP – GP 1000 Methods and Microeconomics Intensive
Fall 2020

Instructor Information

- Professor Josh Merfeld
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    - Office Hours: by appointment (preferably prior to class or in the evening)
- Professor Sewin Chan
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    - Office Hours: by appointment
- Teaching Assistant: Sana Fatima
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Course Information

- Course Dates: August 17 – August 28
- Lecture Time: Monday to Friday, 9:00 am – 11:30 am (break: 10:15 – 10:30 am)
- Recitation Time: Monday to Friday, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

To join a live class session, click the Zoom tool on the left side in the NYU Classes course site and then click Join for the scheduled class meeting. Be sure to login 5-10 minutes prior to the start of class to leave time for troubleshooting, or to have time to say hello to your classmates before class begins. Once you are on Zoom, pick your desired screen/participant view, and troubleshoot if audio or video doesn't automatically turn on. Please make sure that your participant name is your full name [first last].   For more information, see the NYU Zoom Guide for Students.

Technology Support
Students have 24/7 support to NYU's IT services. Explore the NYU servicelink knowledgebase for troubleshooting and student guides for all NYU-supported tools (like NYU Classes, Zoom, etc). Contact askIT@nyu.edu or 1-212-998-3333 for 24/7 technology assistance, or Zoom's 24/7 technical support and resources.

Course Description

This intensive course will provide students with:

- An understanding of basic statistics principles
- Familiarity with Stata
- Experience manipulating data and reading outputs in different formats
- A working knowledge of basic microeconomics concepts

Required Materials

- Wheelan, Charles. 2013. **Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data**. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. (You are not required to purchase this book but you may find it useful.)
- Diez, D. M., Barr, C. D., & Çetinkaya-Rundel, M. (2015). *OpenIntro statistics 3rd Edition*. Available for free download: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B-DHaDEbiOGkc1RycUtIcUtIelE/view
- Stata 15. If you have an earlier (or later!) version of Stata installed, talk to us before purchasing (http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/). You will need Stata for your Fall quantitative methods course as well.
- McGraw-Hill's Connect with Microeconomics 2e by Dean Karlan and Jonathan Morduch. Connect is a web-based learning and assessment platform required for this course. To get started, go to: https://connect.mheducation.com/class/chan-august-2020
  You will be prompted to purchase access to the platform and the included e-book. You may also purchase a loose-leaf printed version of the textbook at a discounted price at this time. Do not purchase the printed book without Connect as you will not be able to submit the required assignments. If you have any issues registering or using Connect, please contact McGraw-Hill's Customer Service: http://www.mhhe.com/support or 800-331-5094.

Pre-Course Assignments

Given the intensive format of the course, pre-course preparation is essential. The pre-course assignments (sent earlier in the summer) will provide you with a working knowledge of basic microeconomic concepts. We will assume you have this foundation and will build upon it on the first day of class. You must complete the pre-course assignments by 7:30AM on the first day of class.

Course Outline

Class 1 – Monday, Aug. 17

Topics – Methods:

- Introduction and review
- Types of variables
- Measures of central tendency and variability
- Introduction to probability

Before Class:

- Statistics refresher course

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Chapters 1 and 2 of *OpenIntro*

Class 2 – Tuesday, Aug. 18

Topics – Methods

- Probability distributions and random variables
- Discrete vs. continuous random variables
- Expectations and variance

Before Class:

- Chapter 3 of *OpenIntro*

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Exercises 2.1-2.3, 2.15, 2.27-2.29, 2.33-2.35, and 2.43 in *OpenIntro*

Class 3 – Wednesday, Aug. 19

Topics – Methods

- Normal distributions and z-scores
- Statistical inference – from samples to populations
- Variability in (random) samples

Before Class:

- Chapters 3 and 4 of *OpenIntro*

- Exercises 3.1-3.8 and 3.17-3.18 of *OpenIntro*

Class 4 – Thursday, Aug. 20

Topics – Methods

- The central limit theorem and sampling distributions
- Confidence intervals and p-values; hypothesis testing
- t-tests (means and proportions)

Before Class:

- Chapter 5 of *OpenIntro*

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- Exercises 4.1-4.3, 4.7-4.9, and 4.17-4.21 of *OpenIntro*

Class 5 – Friday, Aug. 21

Topics – Methods

- Crosstabs and chi-squared
- Fitting lines to data
- Ordinary least squares (OLS)

Before Class:

- Chapter 7 of *OpenIntro*

Not Due, but Helpful:

- Chapter 7 Exercises of *OpenIntro*

Class 6 – Monday, Aug. 24

Topics – Microeconomics:

- Scarcity, opportunity cost, comparative advantage, the gains from trade.
- Competitive markets, demand and supply curves, elasticity.
- Consumer and producer surplus, assessing efficiency.
- Taxes and price controls.

Before Class:

- Pre-course assignments for microeconomics.

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- EconA homework assignment on Connect

Class 7 – Tuesday, Aug. 25

Topics – Microeconomics

- Individual decision-making: budget constraints, income and substitution effects.
- Labor markets.
- International trade and tariffs.

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 7, 16, and 17 on Connect.

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- EconB homework assignment on Connect

Class 8 – Wednesday, Aug. 26

Topics – Microeconomics

- Production functions and cost functions. Short-run versus long run. Profit maximization and output decisions of competitive firms.

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 8*, 12 and 13 on Connect.

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- EconC homework assignment on Connect

Class 9 – Thursday, Aug. 27

Topics – Microeconomics

- Market failures: imperfect competition, asymmetric information, externalities, public goods.

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 10, 14, 18 and 19* on Connect.

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- EconD homework assignment on Connect

Class 10 – Friday, Aug. 28

Topics – Microeconomics

- Game theory and strategic behavior.

Before Class:

- Pre-class assignments for Chapters 9* and 15* on Connect.

Due by 7:30 am the Next Day:

- EconE homework assignment on Connect

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a vital component of Wagner and NYU. All students enrolled in this class are required to read and abide by [Wagner's Academic Code](). All Wagner students have already read and signed the [Wagner Academic Oath](). Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated and students in this class are expected to report violations to me. If any student in this class is unsure about what is expected of you and how to abide by the academic code, you should consult with me.

Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at NYU

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please visit the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) website]() and click on the Reasonable Accommodations and How to Register tab or call or email CSD at (212-998-4980 or [mosescsd@nyu.edu]()) for information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are strongly advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays

[NYU's Calendar Policy on Religious Holidays]() states that members of any religious group may, without penalty, absent themselves from classes when required in compliance with their religious obligations. Please notify me in advance of religious holidays that might coincide with exams to schedule mutually acceptable alternatives.