Fin 533 Applied Financial & Economic Forecasting
Spring 2013

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Course web-page: http://www7.tamu-commerce.edu/ecofin/courses/Ogunc/309/309.html
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Office Hours: M & W at 9:30 – 12:00 and by appointment
Software: You can rent the student version of the software at Minitab website for 6 months at http://www.minitab.com/education/semesterrental/default.aspx
Also: Please fill out the form at: http://sell.tamu.edu/files/studentsasFY2013.pdf and follow the directions to get a free version of SAS. We will use BOTH software for this class.

COURSE OUTLINE

Chapter 1 Forecasting as a Structured Process
Chapter 2 Classifying Forecasting Techniques
Chapter 3 Data Exploration for Forecasting

✓ Submit the proposal for the project

Chapter 4 Characteristics of Times Series
Chapter 5 Assessing Accuracy of Forecasts
Chapter 6 Dealing with Seasonal Fluctuations
Chapter 8 The Exponential Smoothing Method

✓ 1st EXAM—Chapters 1-6, 8

Chapter 10 Casual Forecasting Models
Chapter 11 Linear Regression Analysis
Chapter 12 Forecasting with Regression Model

✓ 2nd EXAM—Chapters 10-12

Chapter 13 Building ARIMA Models: The Box-Jenkins Approach
Chapter 11 Forecasting with ARIMA Models
Chapter 15 Selecting the Final Forecast Number
Chapter 16 Implementing the Forecasting Process
✓ Project is due the last day of class - Monday, April 29
✓ Final EXAM comprehensive - Monday, May 6, 2013

NOTE: This outline is subject to change! Regular class attendance is needed to follow up with these changes and the assignments.

GRADES AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Grades will be based on 2 mid-terms (40 points each), assignment, class participation, and in class work (15 points), project (20 points) and a final (25 points) exam. Plan well in advance for the exams: there will be no early exams and no make-up exams. An exam that is missed will be considered an F, unless your professor is notified prior to the exam and the excuse is a legitimate medical one or officially approved. Regardless of the excuse, if you miss two tests you will automatically fail the class. Assignments will be announced in the class; it is your responsibility to keep up with the assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted. Course grades will be assigned as:

90 – 100 %   A
80 – 89 %      B
70 – 79 %      C
60 – 69 %      D
Below 59 %     F

PROPOSAL FOR THE PROJECT

The proposal will include your data (both your dependent and at least 3 independent variables), data source (the website you got it from), data description, simple statistics and relevant plots on all variables, and the correlation matrix. Please read your project outline handout as soon as possible. Complete project will be due last week of class. You need to bring the projects in class as well as upload them at turnitin.com. Sample projects are uploaded to eCollege. You can also find them at the library at the reference desk. Please refer to the sample projects to get an idea about what the expectations are.

HELPFUL HINTS

Objectives of this course is to introduce the student to the basics of both regression and time series techniques and their application to real business situations as well as the use of current software available for forecasting.

Systematic study, rather than cramming, is advisable. Class attendance is strongly recommended, but not required. Former students have indicated that the material covered in class is very helpful at the time of the examinations. Reading the assigned materials, working the assigned exercises, taking notes in class, and using the office hours are important learning tools. Specific
assignments will be announced orally in the class and it is your responsibility to keep up with all the assignments.

RULES, REGULATIONS AND OTHER STUFF

✓ All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

✓ The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Halladay Student Services Building Room 303 A/D, Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148, StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

✓ The College of Business and Technology at Texas A&M University-Commerce students will follow the highest level of ethical and professional behavior. Actionable Conduct includes illegal activity, dishonest conduct, cheating, and plagiarism. Failure to abide by the principles of ethical and professional behavior will result in sanctions up to and including dismissal from the university.

✓ **PLAGIARISM**  Plagiarism represents disregard for academic standards and is strictly against University policy. Plagiarized work will result in an “F” for the course and further administrative sanctions permitted under University policy. Guidelines for properly quoting someone else’s writings and the proper citing of sources can be found in the APA Publication Manual. If you do not understand the term “plagiarism”, or if you have difficulty summarizing or documenting sources, contact your professor for assistance.

✓ **STUDENT WORKLOAD**  University graduate students are expected to dedicate a minimum of 90 clock hours during the term/semester for a 3SH course delivered online.
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<tr>
<th>Learning Statement for FIN 533</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unsatisfactory</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding of time series data and components using various statistical and graphical tools with applications to financial and economic data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding of Regression Analysis and application to both applications to financial and economic data.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Understanding and application of different univariate time series models including but not limited to Smoothing, Decomposition, MA(k), and ARIMA using financial and economic data.</td>
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<td>Identification of the best model from alternative models and obtaining forecasts using at least 2 different software.</td>
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FIN 533 is a required class for MS in Finance and an elective for MBA