

Applied Economic and Financial Data, ITRN 701.  
Spring 2005, Wednesdays, 7:20-9:50 pm, January 26 – May 11, Room 242  
Dr. Daniel Gaske  
Office Hours To Be Before and After Class by Appointment

Welcome to Applied Economic and Financial Data! The objectives of this new course are to deepen your understanding of and ability to effectively use:

-- statistical formats – such as percent change, indexes, shares, average annual change, change in value of an exchange rate, converting values across currencies, etc. – used in analysis of economic and financial data;

-- types of economic and financial data, such as data on GDP, prices, wages, labor market, balance of payments, international trade, exchange rates, demographics, sectors, and companies;

-- sources of economic and financial data, such as official statistical offices, central banks, international organizations, trade publications, associations, and companies.

#### Materials

*Guide to Economic Indicators: Making Sense of Economic Data*, The Economist. (GE)  
*Numbers Guide: Essentials of Business Numeracy*, The Economist. (NG)  
Various items to be assigned.

#### Grading

Course grade is to be based on performance on three in-class open books/notes examinations and on two homework assignments.

- Both examinations and homework assignments will require application of the concepts and principles covered in the previous classes to actual and hypothetical real world situations.
- Points are to be deducted for shortfalls – inaccurate assessments, incomplete argumentation, unclear discussion, etc. – in addressing the assignments.
- These deductions are to be subtracted from the total number of points possible.
- The course letter grade is to be obtained by computing the points obtained, after deductions, as a percentage of total points possible, and setting against a scale of: 96-100=A, 92-96=A-, 88-92=B+, 84-88=B, 80-84=B-, 70-80=C, <70=F.

## Schedule

Date	Topic	Main Text References
	Statistical Presentation/Analysis Formats	
Jan 26	Shares, Indexes, Ratios, Adjusting for Inflation	GE 1,2
Feb 2	Changes Across Time, Descriptive Statistics <b>Homework Assignment; Due Feb 9</b>	NG 3
Feb 9	Calculations Involving Multiple Currencies	GE 11
Feb 16	Presenting Data in Tables and Charts	NG 4
Feb 23	<b>Examination</b>	
	General Sources / Domestic Data	
Mar 2	General Sources of Economic and Financial Data	
Mar 9	GDP and Other National Income and Product Data <b>Homework Assignment; Due Mar 30</b>	GE 4,8
Mar 16	No Class	
Mar 23	No Class	
Mar 30	Other Domestic Economy Wide Data	GE 5-7,12-13
Apr 6	Sectoral and Company Data	GE 9
Apr 13	<b>Examination</b>	
	External Data	
Apr 20	Balance of Payments and International Debt Data	GE 10
Apr 27	Exchange Rate Data	GE 11
May 4	Disaggregated International Trade Data	
May 11	<b>Examination</b>	

## Academic Accommodations

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

## SPP Policy on Plagiarism

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (e.g. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.