

**Antoine Goujard**  
**EC220 classes**  
**Groups 1, 2, 3**

This is just intended as an informal and unofficial briefing.

**Office Hours:** Monday S684 16.30-17.30 or by email. Please come as soon as possible when you have a problem with the course material!

**Requirements:** attendance and weekly problem sets are mandatory.

All the problem sets will be marked. They require significant time and effort. Do not wait to start your problem set until the night before the class covering it. I expect you to contribute to class by being able to offer your solutions in class.

During the classes, you may be confused by some difficult points. Something difficult/unfamiliar to you is probably confusing for everyone, so please do not hesitate to ask questions in class or in office hours.

**Classes' Slides:** they will be posted on the class website by the end of each week, but they are not the solutions to the weekly problem sets.

**General course students:** the class grade is based on your weekly problem sets of the Michaelmas, Lent and Summer terms and your class participation.

**Exam:** There is only one exam at the end of the lent term. The best way to prepare for the exam is to do the problem sets and learn the material in lecture every week.

**Software:** we will be using two different software STATA and EViews for time-series.

It is quite helpful to have a good knowledge of the software both for the course and for your cvs. For the classes, most of the programs are provided on the course website. If you want to learn more about STATA, the following web-resources may be helpful:

- [http://personal.lse.ac.uk/MCMAHONM/stata/BOE\\_stata\\_notes%20-%20June%202008.pdf](http://personal.lse.ac.uk/MCMAHONM/stata/BOE_stata_notes%20-%20June%202008.pdf)
- <http://data.princeton.edu/stata/>

A general good idea is to use the help command of STATA to get a more precise description of what is going on. Eg. For your first regressions,

- Help reg

**Motivations for studying/learning econometrics:**

-Be able to better frame your economic questions and describe precisely your problems with accurate data analysis.

-Testing/assessing the impacts of alternative programs in very different fields (healthcare, infrastructure, unemployment benefits, tax reforms...).

-Testing the relevance of several theories, hypothesis.

-Forecasting, predicting the effect of some behaviours, or policies.

e.g. Consumption and savings behaviours.

Recent press articles in labour and development economics:

<http://www.povertyactionlab.org/news/control%20freak.pdf> (the economist)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/20/business/20leonhardt.html?\\_r=2&scp=2&sq=leonhardt&st=nyt&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/20/business/20leonhardt.html?_r=2&scp=2&sq=leonhardt&st=nyt&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)