Economics 300, Spring 2015:
Quantitative Methods in Economics
(FISK210, TR 9:00 am - 10:20 am)

Professor Karl David Boulware
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- Teaching Assistants: Mackenzie McPike (mmcpike@wesleyan.edu) 847-612-4374 and Duane Chen (djchen@wesleyan.edu) 203-715-7943.

- Discussion Sessions: Mackenzie will hold weekly discussion sessions Thursdays at 8-10pm in PAC001. Duane will hold weekly discussion sessions every Sunday from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm in PAC004.

- Computer Sessions: Manolis Kaparakis (mkaparakis@wesleyan.edu) will hold computer sessions in Excel and Stata outside of class at the QAC. Sara Howard (showard01@wesleyan.edu) will overview library resources during class. Class time might also be spent using computers. See the class schedule for dates and times.

- Purpose: This course provides you with basic training in probability and statistics to understand empirical studies in economics. In addition, you will learn computer skills (Excel and Stata) used by applied economists in order to undertake your own applied economic research.

- Readings: The textbook is Wonnacott and Wonnacott, Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics, 4th edition (1990). Additional materials may be handed out in class and/or made available on moodle.

- Course Grading: Final grades are calculated as the sum of 9 measures of communication: paper proposal (5), class participation (5), quizzes (15), midterm exam (20), paper (25), and final exam (30).

- Assignments: Problem sets will be given out weekly as necessary. They are to be left in my economics office mailbox no later than the close of business Friday (4:30pm). They will be graded on a 0-3 system. Assignments handed in late will be penalized unless an agreement is made with the TA’s ahead of time.
8. **Lectures/Class Participation:** You are responsible for all assigned reading whether or not the material is covered explicitly in class. In the lectures, I will focus on the most important topics as well as on those that are more difficult to comprehend. Please ask questions as they arise. I encourage you to comment on the level, pace, and content of the course as it progresses. In particular, feel free to contact me by e-mail. If you know that you will have to be late and/or leave early, please let me know in advance. Regular tardiness is unprofessional and will, at my discretion, negatively affect your grade.

9. **Quizzes:** There will be quizzes at the end of class on a regular basis. Each quiz will be announced at least a week in advance, will focus on one chapter, and will be strongly correlated with the wording from your weekly problem sets. If you cannot take a quiz in the case of medical emergency, I will assign 40 points of your total grade to the final exam provided that you give me written proof.

10. **Exams:** The midterm exam is scheduled for 3/31 (Tuesday). The final exam is scheduled for 5/12 (Tuesday). The final exam and the midterm is weakly correlated with the wording of your problem sets. The final exam is comprehensive and the midterm is not. If you cannot take the midterm in the case of medical emergency, I will assign 50 points of your total grade to the final exam provided that you give me a written proof. I will reschedule final exam only in the case of serious medical emergency.

11. **Research Paper:** A research proposal is due on Friday 3/27. Additionally, you are required to meet with me before I will okay your proposed research topic. A draft of the paper is due on Friday, 5/8 with no exceptions. The paper draft must be submitted to turnitin through moodle. The paper guidelines can be found [here](#).

12. **Honor Code:** All work handed in must be your own and must be performed for this course only. This does not mean that you must refrain from discussing problems with other students as an aid to understanding the material, but it does preclude copying another students' work. You are expected to discourage such behavior on the part of others. This distinction is generally clear enough to make in practice; when in doubt, please discuss it with me.

13. **Warning:** This course is relentlessly cumulative and demanding. Be prepared to spend a lot of time on it.