

Syllabus

Course Number: 440.011.81
Instructor: John Schindler
Email: jschind3@jhu.edu I am always available by email, but please allow 24 hours for a response. In the event that an answer is detailed or complicated, I may record an answer and send you a link to the recording or suggest that we meet in the Adobe Connect room.

Purpose: The purpose of this mini-course is to introduce students to different types of forecasts including those used in government and the private sector. It is necessary to earn the IIF Certificate in Forecasting Practice.

Grading: Your grade in this course will be pass/fail. Passing grades will be obtained by successfully completing all elements of the course.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this class. There are online resources available if you need reference material on forecasting. All reading material for the class is available online, with links provided on the course website.

Prerequisite: 440.615 Macroeconomic Forecasting, and 440.614 Macroeconometrics or 440.618 Microeconometrics.

Office Hours: These will be held by appointment. As I currently live in Switzerland, it is almost impossible to find a time that works for a broad set of students. However, we can arrange a call or an Adobe Connect session at a mutually agreeable time. To set this up, email me. The Adobe Connect room is accessible through this link: <http://connect.johnshopkins.edu/schindler/>

Course Elements

For this one week mini-course you will be doing some readings, thinking about different types of forecasts, and discussing how you can (and perhaps already do) use different types of forecast in your work.

Here is what you need to do during this week long course:

1. Complete the reading assignment for the class and email me when you have completed it.
2. Participate in each of the four discussion threads (judgmental forecasts, probability forecasts, scenario forecasts, time series forecasts)
3. Optional - Watch the mini-lectures that were recorded by the previous instructor.

Reading: There is a brief reading assignment taken from Frank Diebold’s online textbook, “Forecasting.” <http://www.ssc.upenn.edu/~fdiebold/Teaching221/Forecasting.pdf>. Please read section 1.2 and chapter 2 of that text.

The book is also an excellent resource for forecasting questions. After you have read those portions of the text, please email me to let me know you have completed the required reading.

Interactive

Assignments: On four days this week, I will post a thread to the discussion board. You do not have to participate each day, but you are expected to contribute to each of the four assignments between Monday and Sunday. Your contribution to the discussion must be substantive in order for you to get credit for the assignment.

Lectures There are no lectures in this class. There were two lectures recorded by the previous instructor that are still available for your use. The lectures cover two types of forecasts. Viewing them is optional.

University Ethics Statement:

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Report any violations you witness to the instructor.

COURSE CALENDAR

January

- 11 Course begins and judgmental forecast discussion thread is available.
- 12 Probability forecast discussion thread is available.
- 13 Scenario forecast discussion thread is available.
- 14 Time series forecast discussion thread is available
- 17 All course elements must be completed by midnight