**ECON 900**
**Computational Methods for Economics**

P.W. Wilson Fall 2020

Class location and time: Course will be delivered online, Tue. and Thu., 2:00–3:15pm
Office: 320A Business Building
Office hours: 3:30-4:30pm Tue. and Thu., or by appointment
Email: pww@clemson.edu
WWW: https://pww.people.clemson.edu

**Course Objectives:**
This course presents methods of computation useful for research in economics. The focus is on general methods, as opposed to computation of specific things. As such, two high-level programming languages, R and FORTRAN, will be used to illustrate how various algorithms can be employed to solve practical, applied problems.

**Intended Audience:**
This is a graduate-level course for Ph.D. students in economics. Students in statistics, management science, operations research, and perhaps other might find the course useful. Students should have a working knowledge of statistics and probability at the level of ECON 806 (Econometrics I), and linear estimation at the level of ECON 807 (Econometrics II). No prior programming experience is assumed, although such experience will be useful for the course.

**Course Grade Determination:**
Students will work several problem assignments; grades will reflect students’ abilities to implement computational methods in these assignments. There will be no tests nor papers required for this course. Class (virtual) attendance and active engagement in the intellectual exercises that take place in class are mandatory; shirking will result in (perhaps severely) reduced grades.

**Reading Assignments:**
No textbook is required for this course. Reading assignments will be made in class, and will consist of articles and perhaps other materials that will be available on my course web pages (see the URL above). Students should review material from the previous class as well as any reading assignments before each class.

**Office Hours:**
My office hours are shown above. However, due to the ongoing corona virus pandemic, I will not hold office hours in my physical office in the new Business Building. I will be glad to meet with you as needed in an online, virtual setting using Zoom. If you want to meet, send me an email, and I will set up a Zoom meeting during the time listed above for my “office hours.” If you think you have a good reason for doing this outside those hours, please let me know.