ECON 900
Computational Methods for Economics

P.W. Wilson Spring 2014

**Class location and time:** 107 Earle Hall, Tue. and Thu., 12:30–1:45pm
**Course web pages:**
http://www.clemson.edu/economics/faculty/wilson/courses/course_materials.html
**Office:** 200D Sirrine Hall
**Office hours:** 10:30–11:30am Tue. and Thu., or by appointment
**Email:** pww@clemson.edu
**WWW:** http://www.clemson.edu/economics/faculty/wilson

**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 in teams on 4–6 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 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 the 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. If you need to see me at other times, I will be happy to meet with you; a good approach is to ask me about an appointment after class. I will be happy to meet with you.