COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide hands-on experience in the formulation, evaluation, and presentation of business forecasts. The course will blend elements of a workshop and an independent study. Trend-based and causal model-based statistical forecasting methods will be introduced and demonstrated. Students will apply these methods to forecasting problems of their own choosing, using data they have gathered, presenting their results in a paper.

COURSE AND LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

This course is built on the premise that value received is directly proportional to effort and preparation that one puts out. My role will be to introduce concepts and methods, and to act as facilitator and problem solver. The class is an opportunity for you to develop skills in developing, evaluating and explaining business forecasts. Your success in doing so will be the product of both of our efforts.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS

A year (or more) after this course is over, I hope that students who have taken this course will:

- Understand the issues, resource requirements, and fundamental concepts of business forecasting;
- Retain the experience of empirical research project, including gathering and organizing data, testing theories and hypotheses, and producing a valuable result;
- Gain the ability to assess and interpret business forecasts;
- Continue to develop the ability to document and explain research findings in writing.

READINGS, CASES, AND EXERCISES

Required texts: There is no required text for this class. Readings are posted on Blackboard.

Required cases and exercises: Exercises will be handed out in class or assigned through Moodle.
REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The evaluation for this course will be based upon a written report describing a unique and original forecasting project of your choosing. Other assignments and exercises will be distributed and graded and will form the basis for making borderline calls between grades, when necessary.

The report is due at 5 PM on Friday of the last week of classes, November 1, in paper form in my office (GBB 231).

The grade for the final project will be based on mastery of forecasting methods (60 percent) and on clarity and completeness of presentation (40 percent).

OTHER STUFF

Mission Statement
The University of Montana’s School of Business Administration is a collegial learning community dedicated to the teaching, exploration, and application of the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a competitive marketplace.

Master of Business Administration Mission Statement
Serving our region by educating ethical leaders who are effective in managing organizations in the global environment.

Master of Business Administration Assessment and Assurance of Learning
As part of our assessment process and assurance-of-learning standards, the MBA program has adopted six learning goals for our students. These are as follows:

SOBA MBA graduates will demonstrate…
- integrated knowledge and understanding of various business functions.
- strong communication skills supportive of their leadership abilities.
- integrity and ethical behavior in individual and collective work.
- analytical and critical thinking in decision making.
- an understanding of emerging trends in information technology and the interplay between information technology and organizational strategy.
- an understanding of the implications of the global business environment.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at:
Plagiarism and cheating are strictly forbidden. If you do not understand what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please come and see me.

E-mail: Beginning on July 1, 2007, the university has a new policy regarding student e-mail accounts. Faculty members may only correspond with students regarding academic issues if both parties use official UM e-mail addresses. According to the memo I received, this means that you need to either use a grizmail.umt.edu address or a umontana.edu address for email correspondence with your professors. Please make sure you are using that email address (checking it frequently, etc.) - you will receive emails from me there.

If you have an authorized disability and need accommodation, please see me during the first week of class. Should an incident occur during the session to cause you a disability, see me as soon as possible.