

STATISTICAL METHODS IN PRACTICE

MATH/STAT 3379.18 – Fall 2017

Instructor: Steve Larson

Department: Mathematics and Statistics

Email: steven.larson@shsu.edu

Phone: 281-852-3577

Office Hours: My office hours are 10:30 – 11:00 TTH and 3-5 TTH. Contact me via email to set up an appointment

Class meeting time and place: TTH 5:00 pm -6:20 pm in TWC 210.

Text and Materials: The text for this course is **Introductory Statistics** by Neil A. Weiss, 10th Edition. You will be able to access an on-line version of the text for no charge. We will use an online resource called **Pearson MyStatLab** to access the textbook and most of the homework. Access will be available through **Blackboard**. For those wishing to purchase or rent a hard copy of the textbook the ISBN number is: 9780321989178.

Instructions for accessing the course materials through Blackboard are included at the end of the syllabus. The student access code is shown there.

The link below can be used to make sure your browser is set up appropriately to allow access to all of the MyStatLab materials.

<https://support.pearson.com/getsupport/s/article/ka0b0000000DTETAA4/Compatibility-Check-for-Your-Browser-and-Operating-System>

Course Requirements:

a. Quizzes:

- There will be a short quiz at the beginning of class most Thursdays.
- I will pass out the quiz at the start of class.
- If you come in late, you will not be given additional time. Please be on time.
- I will drop at least two of these quizzes.
- Quizzes can be taken early if you know that you will be out ahead of time and have a reasonable cause.

b. Homework:

- Most homework will be done and graded online.
- Additional assigned homework will be taken up at the **start** of class.
- I will drop at least two of the lowest homework assignments.
- Homework can be handed in late for reduced credit.
- You are welcome to work together on homework.
- Completing the assignment will be directly related to your quiz average because the quizzes will resemble what was covered in the homework assignments.

c. Software

- We will use both SPSS and Minitab during the semester.
- Both SPSS and Minitab can be found on all computers on campus in the classroom and within the computer labs.
- We will use SPSS early in the semester and Minitab later in the semester.

d. Extra Credit Opportunity:

- There will be one extra credit opportunity.
- This will be a small project designed to give you the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned in class.
- You will collect data and then analyze and interpret the results.
- The credit you receive from this assignment will be assigned first to the homework and quizzes and then (if maxed out) to the exams. It can raise your grade as much as a full grade, depending on the quality of the work.
- This assignment must be turned in by Saturday, December 2nd.

e. Exams:

- Exams will be open book. Do not take this to mean that you will have time to look up all of the answers. The exam will test your ability to apply the tools and techniques discussed in class to interpreting information. I can promise that the exams will be challenging, but fair.
- Practice questions will be available for the exams on Blackboard.
- On the day of the exams I will ask you to put your bags and all belongings beneath the desk. I will also ask that you put your cell phone on silent or off, not vibrate. Your cell phone needs to be in your bags.
- There will be two mid-term exams and a limited comprehensive final exam.
- *If your final exam grade is higher than your lowest regular test grade, I will replace your lowest regular exam grade with the final grade.*
- **Your final exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 7th 7:30 – 9:30 pm.**
- See the absentee section on what to do if you must miss an exam.
- Portions of the exams may test your understanding and ability to apply SPSS or Minitab to a data set.

Course Calendar:

Tentative* Exam Schedule for MTH/STA 3379

Exam 1	CH 1 – 3	Tuesday, September 24 th
Exam 2	CH 4 – 7	Tuesday, October 26 th
Final Exam	<i>Chapters 8-16 (75%) and 1-7(25%)</i>	Tuesday, December 7 th 7:30 – 9:30 pm

*Schedule is subject to change and will be announced in class.

Grading Policy:

Homework	Quiz	Exam 1	Exam 2	Final Exam
15%	15%	20%	20%	30%

Attendance Policy:

- Catching up due to an unexcused absence is not my responsibility; it is yours.
- In the chance that you miss it is a good idea to have exchanged emails and/or phone numbers with your classmates on the first day of class.

- ***IMPORTANT: If you leave early without letting me know before class that there is a valid reason that you need to leave, then whatever was turned in that day (homework, worksheet, lab, quiz, extra credit, etc.) will not be counted for credit.***
- Attendance will be taken daily.

If you must miss class:

- a. Students who miss a scheduled exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the scheduled exam.
- b. Exams will only be made up if the university excuses the absence and thus you are able to provide **written** verification.
- c. Student athletes who anticipate missing a class, exam, or assignment due to a University sponsored athletic event must provide appropriate documentation and notification **PRIOR** to the absence.
- d. Make up exams will not be given if the exam has already been graded and passed back. I usually return exams within a week.
- e. You are responsible for obtaining all handouts and/or announcement information.
- f. Some materials are available ahead of time on Blackboard.

Calculators:

- A **basic** calculator is **recommended** for this class. The calculator should have the basic math functions plus the square root and log functions. Homework, quizzes, and exams will be written as if you are in possession of one when completing them.
- You may not have your calculator lid out during the exam.
- You may not share calculators on Exams or quizzes.
- Please come to class prepared especially if there is a quiz or exam. Do not assume I have an extra calculator.
- You may not use an ipod touch or any device in that similar category as a calculator for the quizzes or exams.
- You may not use your cell phone as a calculator for the quizzes or exams.

Miscellaneous Information:

- a. Issues that are not addressed politely and respectfully will not be addressed.
- b. No hats, headphones, or sunglasses are permitted during exams or quizzes.
- c. Your cell phone needs to be turned off or on silent, not vibrate. Most importantly, it must be out of sight during class. A cell phone out during an exam will be considered cheating. You may not use your cell phone as a calculator.
- d. Please check your campus email regularly or forward your campus email to an email that you check regularly.
- e. Be respectful of the students around you at all times.
- f. Make sure you have read the syllabus carefully because you are responsible for what lies within it.

Course Description: This course covers the fundamentals of statistical concepts and will guide the student through basic statistical procedures to permit critical insight into the science of collecting, classifying, presenting, and interpreting information from data. Three primary topics are covered. The first topic is descriptive statistics (graphic presentation of data, histograms, plots, charts, measures of central tendency, dispersion, and position). The second topic is probability concepts and rules for calculating probabilities of simple or compound events. The probability coverage also includes the more commonly occurring probability distributions such as the binomial and normal distributions. Finally, the third area of coverage is that of inferential statistics, including inferences involving one and two populations. Students are also introduced to SPSS and Minitab software.

- **Recording Devices:** Recording devices, such as cameras, audio recorders, or video recorders may not be used without prior approval of the instructor.
- **Electronic Devices:** The use by students of any device that is performing the functions of a telephone, text messages, or pager during class-time is prohibited. Arrangements for handling potential emergency situation uses of devices must be approved by the instructor in advance. Any use of a telephone, text messages, pager, PDA, or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited. These devices should not be present during a test, or if present should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen, heard, or used by a student. The visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for the test. Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- **Classroom Rules of Conduct:** Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Cellular telephones and pagers must be turned off before class begins. Students are prohibited from using tobacco products in class, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

Visitors in the Classroom: Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

- **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>

Accessing the Course Materials on MyStatLab

Enter Your Blackboard Course:

1. Sign in to Blackboard and enter your Blackboard course.
2. Do one of the following:
 - Select any Pearson link in the Content area.
 - Select **Tools** in the left navigation and **Pearson's MyLab & Mastering** on the Tools page. Next, select any course link in the top area of the Pearson's MyLab and Mastering Tools page.

Get Access to Your Pearson Course Content:

1. Enter your Pearson account **username** and **password** to **Link Accounts**.
You have an account if you have ever used a Pearson MyLab & Mastering product, such as MyMathLab, MyITLab, MySpanishLab, MasteringBiology or MasteringPhysics.
 - If you don't have a Pearson account, select **Create** and follow the instructions.
2. Select the access code option and enter your access code:

WMSLSS-SLUNK-DHOB1-DOUGH-FRACK-MOOSE

3. From the You're Done page, select **Go to My Courses**.

Note: We recommend you always enter your MyLab & Modified Mastering course through Blackboard.

Get Your Computer Ready

For the best experience, check the system requirements for your product at:

<http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/system-requirements/>

Need help?

For help with MyLab & Modified Mastering with Blackboard, go to:

<http://help.pearsoncmg.com/mylabmastering/bbi/student/en/index.html>

Technical Support for students is available 24/7 at 800-677-6337