

**STATISTICAL METHODS IN PRACTICE**  
**MTH/STA 3379.16 – Spring 2018**

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**Office Hours:** MWF 10-11am or by appointment. I am also available for Skype call appointments. If you would like to meet after 2pm on TR at TWC, I am open to doing that.

**Class meeting time and place:** TR 12:30pm – 1:50pm in TWC 209.

**Text and Materials:** Introductory Statistics, 10th Ed, by Dr. Neil A. Weiss (Our online homework venue has an electronic version of the textbook)

\*\*\*\**This semester this course is taking part in a teaching grant for an experimental teaching style. This semester you will be working in pairs for all labs, quizzes, and in class worksheets. You will have your own online homework grade and you will also take exams by yourself. You have **a week from today** to tell me who you will be working with throughout the semester.* \*\*\*\*

**Course Requirements:**

a. Quizzes:

- There will be a short quiz at the beginning of class most Thursdays. See the tentative course schedule for further details.
- I will pass out the quiz at the start of class.
- These will be worked in the pairs picked at the start of class. One paper will be submitted for the pair of students\*. Only those present for the quiz will receive credit.
- 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.
- If you are tardy and miss the quiz you will not make it up.
- Sometimes quizzes are given in the form of worksheets.
- All worksheets can be found on blackboard.
- All students are responsible for printing their own worksheet and bring those to class ready to turn in.
- Quizzes will not be made up after the fact if missed for any reason.
- I drop quizzes to balance this out.
- Quizzes can be taken early if you know that you will be out ahead of time and have a reasonable cause.

b. Online Homework:

- The online homework is called mystatlab. You register through blackboard under the “Online Homework Link (wright13504)” on the left side of the screen. Use the instructor’s course ID: ***wright13504***.
- Online homework extensions are rarely given on an individual basis. ***Please stay on top of this and feel free to work ahead.***
- If you are struggling with a problem and think that it is a computer issue, the best way to show me is to take a *screen shot* and email me. If you do not know how to do this, see me after class and I will be glad to show you.
- You can help each other within reason on the online homework, but each student gets an individual grade.
- You will need to have at least a 60% online homework average in order for your quiz grade to count for credit. ***Please stay on top of this and feel free to work ahead.***

c. SPSS Labs:

- There will be periodic SPSS labs throughout the semester.
- All lab assignments are expected to be done *computationally* using the SPSS software and to be ***uploaded as a PDF to the link provided in blackboard.***
- SPSS can be found on all computers on campus within the computer labs.
- Sam has a home use program for SPSS that can be found by following the following instructions: <https://samweb.shsu.edu/home01wp/>
- Late lab assignments will **not** be accepted.
- Lab submissions received by midnight before the day they are due will receive bonus credit.
- One submission is required for each pair of students\*.
- Labs are due exactly one week after they are discussed in class.

d. Exams:

- On the day of the exams I will ask you to put your bags and all belongs at the front of the classroom. I will also ask that you put your cell phone on silent or off, not vibrate. Your cell phone need to be in your bags at the front of the classroom as well as your calculator lids.
- *All exams are to be work as **individuals**. Sharing of content on exam day will be treated as cheating and actions will be taken accordingly.*
- **Your final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm.**
- You need to bring a valid picture ID to each exam.
- See the absentee section on what to do if you must miss an exam.
- Portion of the exams may test your ability to apply and interpret SPSS to a data set.
- Exams will only be made up if the university excuses the absence and thus you are able to provide written verification.
- There will be three exams and a limited comprehensive final exam.
- *If your final exam grade is higher than your lowest regular test grade, I will replace your final for that regular exam grade.*

**Course Calendar:**

*Tentative Course Calendar*

Exam 1	Chapter 1 – 3	Thursday, February 15 <sup>th</sup>
Exam 2	Chapter 4 – 6	Thursday, March 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Exam 3	Chapter 7 - 9	Tuesday, April 24 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	Comprehensive	Tuesday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> 1-3pm

**Grading Policy:**

Online Hmwk	Quiz	Labs	Exam Average	Final Exam
10%	10%	10%	50%	20%

**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.*
- In cases where you do need to leave early and have let me know, please sit close to the door so as not to disrupt anyone on your way out.

- Attendance will be taken daily.

**If you must miss class:**

- Students who miss a scheduled exam must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the scheduled exam.
- Exams will only be made up if the university excuses the absence and thus you are able to provide **written** verification.
- 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.
- Make up exams will not be given if the exam has already been graded and passed back. I usually return exams within a week.
- You are responsible for obtaining all handouts and/or announcement information.
- Some materials are available ahead of time on our class website.

**Calculators:**

- A **graphing** calculator (such as a TI-83, or equivalent) is **required** for this class. Homework, quizzes, and exams will be written as if you are in possession of one when completely them.
- Calculators are allowed in this course, yet I will be resetting all calculator memories on the day of the exam. Hiding information such as formulas within your calculator will be considered cheating on an exam.
- 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.
- You may not use your cell phone as a calculator.

**Miscellaneous Information:**

- Cheating is a most serious offense - I will not hesitate to press for the most severe consequence allowed by the University. YOU WILL ALSO RECEIVE an "F" FOR THE CLASS.
- Issues that are not addressed politely and respectfully will not be addressed.
- No hats, headphones, or sunglasses are permitted during Exams or quizzes.
- No work, no credit, therefore, show all work. My rule of thumb is, if I cannot do it in my head, it is likely neither could or did you.
- 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.
- Please check your campus email regularly or forward your campus email to an email that you check regularly.
- Be respectful of the student around you at all times.
- 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. The 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, bivariate data analysis, linear correlation and regression analysis). The second topic is probability concepts and rules for calculating probabilities of 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 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](mailto: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>