

Introduction to Statistical Methods — Stat 2000, Section 001, Fall 2002

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Office hours: MWF 12noon – 1pm and by appointment

Text: *Introduction to the Practice of Statistics, Third Edition*
by Moore/McCabe (1998), W. H. Freeman and Company, New York.

Classes: MWF 8:30am – 9:20am (Mo 8/26 – Fr 12/6, 2002).

Room: **Bus 320**

Course Objectives:

- 1) Develop statistical thinking.
- 2) Develop problem-solving skills.
- 3) Understand basic statistical concepts and inference.

Course Requirements:

- 0) **Prerequisite:** High school algebra and basic computer skills, in particular the ability to access and use the World Wide Web.
- 1) **Class Attendance:** You are responsible for all material assigned as required reading and/or presented in lecture.
- 2) **Homework:** Assignments will be posted on the Web every week. Homework will be collected in class in the following week. Homework mailed in, sent by FAX, or sent by e-mail by the due date will be accepted as well. In general, late homework will not be accepted. There are 13 assignments (25 points each). However, only your best 12 homework assignments will contribute to your course grade. This way, you can miss to turn in an entire homework assignment without hurting your overall course grade. Homework assignments are worth a total of 30% (300 points) of your course grade.

Homeworks will not be marked in detail. Points will be awarded depending on your written efforts working on each of the exercises (“no work at all” up to “full solution”). Solutions will be posted on the Web. **Note that obtaining full points in a homework assignment does not mean that everything you did is correct — this is just an indicator that you showed enough work in answering each question. It is your responsibility to carefully check your own solution with the solutions posted on the Web.**

Be **guaranteed** that each midterm contains **at least one** of the previous homework exercises. If you like, you may work in groups on the homework assignments. In fact,

you are encouraged to do so. However, each person must turn in an individual homework solution sheet. Photocopies are not permitted.

- 3) **Software:** This course will not focus on any particular statistical software package. Instead, we will make use of software and teachware available on the Web at many occasions. You can use any statistical package you want for the homework assignments. However, you have to understand concepts and ideas for the midterms and the final.
- 4) **Midterms:** There will be two 200 point 50min midterms on Fr 9/27 and Fr 11/1. In case you miss a midterm (or the final) and want to take a make-up midterm/final, you have to provide a verified document that shows the reason for your absence on the exam day, e.g., if you are sick, see a doctor and let him/her verify your visit. If you can't make the midterm/final due to job-related circumstances (e.g., travel), talk to me in person **before** the exam (I may ask you to provide me with airline tickets and hotel bills in your name). If you have no verified document, there is no way to make up for a missed midterm/final.

In any case, please contact me as soon as possible if you cannot participate in an exam (best if in advance) and make sure to obtain the required verification document that will allow you to take a make-up exam.
- 5) **Final:** There will be a 2 hour, 300 point comprehensive final exam, on Wed 12/11 from 7:00am through 8:50am. Everyone has to take the final exam.
- 6) **Disabilities:** If a student has a disability that will likely require some accommodation by the instructor, the student must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center, preferably during the first week of the course. Any requests for special considerations relating to attendance, pedagogy, taking of examinations, etc. must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. In cooperation with the Disability Resource Center, course materials can be provided in alternative formats — large print, audio, diskette or Braille.

Important Dates:

Homework posted on Web: every Monday between 9/2 and 11/25 (13 assignments).

Homework due: every Monday between 9/9 and 12/2.

Midterms: Friday 9/27 and Friday 11/1 (50min in class).

Final: Wed 12/11 from 7:00am through 8:50am (2 hours).

Grading System:

Final	30%	300 pts
Midterms	$2 \times 20\% = 40\%$	$2 \times 200 \text{ pts} = 400 \text{ pts}$
Homework	30%	best 12 x 25 pts = 300 pts
Total	100%	1000 pts

Course grades will be generally comparable (in terms of distribution) with grades assigned in other beginning statistics courses.

The above schedule and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.