

Economics 321 (sec 001&002) - Introduction to Statistics

Semester: Fall 2004

Sec1: MWF 12:30-1:20 p.m. (Post 127)

Sec2: MWF 10:30-11:20 a.m. (Kell 302)

Instructor: David Ching

Office: 531

Office hours: WF 1:30-12:15 (or by appointment)

Email: deching@hawaii.edu

Optional: To be included on class e-mail list to receive powerpoint slides or special class announcements, send me an email and write in subject line: “**Econ 321 section# ‘your section#’, email list.**” (Due by the end of the 3rd week.)

Course Description

This three credit hour course is designed for the students who have little or no background in statistics. Statistics is an incredibly useful tool that we see almost everywhere in everyday life and our studies. The basic statistical ideas, techniques, and methods to be covered range from, but are not limited to: probabilities, frequency distributions, the normal distribution, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, correlation and regression analysis, and analysis of variance.

Outline of course material to be covered

The Nature of Probability and Statistics

Frequency Distribution and Graphs

Data Description

Counting Techniques

Probability

Discrete Probability Distributions

The Normal Distribution

Confidence Intervals and Sample Size

Hypothesis testing

Testing the Difference between 2 Means, 2 Variances, & 2 Proportions

Correlation and Regression

Chi-Square and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

Class Resources

The following course materials are available from the bookstore:

Text: Bluman, Allan G., “Elementary Statistics, A Step by Step Approach,”
McGraw Hill, 2003.

It is recommended that you bring your text to lecture, as it will be frequently used in class.

Grading Schedule

Grades will be based on the following:

Quizzes: 60% (Every Monday starting 3rd week through the 12th week.)
Final Exam: 10% (Friday Dec.17th, Sec.1: 12-2p.m.; Sec.2: 9:45-11:45 a.m.)
Project: 20%
Participation: 10% (5% = presentation, 5% = peer review)

The quizzes/exams will be short answers, t/f, m/c, and/or problem solving. There are no make-up quizzes/exams. I will be assigning final grades using the plus/minus system.

Attendance and Class Participation

Attendance is mandatory and class participation may provide extra credit points when indicated by the instructor. You are responsible for any changes in material or announcements given in class. Contact a classmate for any information missed due to absence. **Tardiness, absence, or leaving early are not acceptable excuses for not knowing information or important announcements covered in class.**

Homework

Suggested homework problems from the text will be assigned. Homework is optional but is intended to prepare you for quizzes and exams.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given every Monday starting from the 3rd week of class. The quiz may cover any topic covered up to that point in the class, but will probably focus on the prior weeks material. Ten quizzes will be given but the lowest three grades will be dropped from grading consideration. There will be no make-up quizzes for any reason.

Project and Participation

The project topic will be announced after the 9th week of classes. Participation consists of project presentation and peer review feedback.

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Failure to comply with University of Hawaii guidelines of academic honesty may result in a failing grade in the course and further action taken by the university. Please do not attempt to test the boundaries of this guideline.

Cell phones and pagers: I respect the student's need for communication provided the following rules are followed without exception:

1. Devices are set on vibrate or silent mode.
2. Do not answer phone in class. Please leave instead of disrupting the instructor or those around you.
3. All phone conversations are to be completed before reentering class.

Please respect these rules so no other steps need to be taken to assure compliance.

I reserve the right to make any changes to class policy and schedule. You will be informed of any changes that occur.

The following information will be a guideline for the project presentation section of the course (weeks 13-15):

Peer Review Outline:

You will review all groups except your own. Turn in each days review at the end of each class. Please write reviews on one continuous page for the day.

1. Names of presenters
2. Project topic description
3. Suggestions or questions (if any)

Presentation Guideline:

- Write names of those in your group on chalkboard.
- Introduce topic (what is interesting about topic/why did you choose it?). Write null and alternative hypothesis on chalkboard.
- Discuss how the study was designed, potential challenges, and results (if any).
- Open discussion for peer feedback (any questions/suggestions?).
- Erase chalkboard.