Economics 321 - Introduction to Statistics

Summer 2006, Session II

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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:

It is recommended that you bring your text to lecture, as it will be frequently used in class for examples and necessary tables and formulas.

Grading Schedule

Grades will be based on the following:
Quizzes:  60%
Final Exam:  20%
Homework:  20%
A quiz will usually be given the day following the completion of each chapter (unless announced otherwise), with the first quiz administered after completion of Ch.3. There will be a total of 10 quizzes. The quizzes/exams will be short answers, t/f, m/c, and/or problem solving. The quiz may cover any topic covered up to that point in the class, but will probably focus on the most recently completed chapter’s material. Ten quizzes will be given but the lowest two grades will be dropped from grading consideration. There will be no make-up quizzes allowed for any reason. 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

Homework will be checked for completion, and will be due on the day of the chapter quiz. It is your responsibility to make sure that the homework is stapled together and legible before handing it in. You must show your work for full credit. Late homework will not be accepted (otherwise it would not be fair to your classmates who worked hard to get it in on time).

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 or department. 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.