Economics 321 - Introduction to Statistics

Summer Sessions 2010 (I &II)

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(or by appointment)

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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 in-class examples and necessary statistical tables.
Grading Schedule

Grades will be based on the following:
Quizzes: 70%
Final Exam: 30%

Final Exam: Will be on the last day of scheduled lecture. If you are not willing and/or able to take the final exam at the time indicated (due to travel arrangements, multiple exams scheduled, time conflicts, etc.), please do not take this class and do not request to have a special time to accommodate your schedule or trips.

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 problems are optional but is intended to prepare you for quizzes and exams.

Quizzes

Quizzes tentatively will be given on the lecture day following the completion of each chapter, with the first quiz given after the completion of chapter 3. The quiz may cover any topic covered up to that point in the class, but will probably focus on the 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. Once I collect the quizzes from the class, I will not administer quizzes to late arrivals to class. Also, if you arrive 5 minutes before I collect the quizzes, you will have 5 minutes before I collect it from you (for example).

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.

**Course Hints:**
Note – I will operate under the assumption that you have read the syllabus and understand the information as it is presented (this includes the hints below). Should you decide to neglect the information or the suggestions provided but ask questions pertaining to this content, I will likely suggest you read this syllabus to answer topics that are covered here as the response to you.

- You will **not** need a “fancy” calculator. Primary functions needed beyond the most basic are: multiple memory keys, exponents and roots. Graphing calculators are NOT necessary and may actually hurt your performance for various reasons. I generally use a cheap business calculator.
- Powerpoints of lectures will be provided, but should not be relied upon. Read the text to fill in the gaps that naturally exist in the powerpoints.
- Keep up with the homework. Don’t let it build up because cramming is an inefficient method of learning. This class can be easy if you just keep up.
- If you have assigned homework questions, see me outside of lecture time. **Show you have made a “good faith” attempt at the problem.** Bring the work you have done up to the point you got “stuck.”
- You will not be forced to memorize formulas beyond the most basic ones. I will provide formulas for your reference when necessary for quizzes and exam.
- You **DO NOT NEED** inform me if you will miss (or have missed) a quiz. Regardless of reason, that will be considered one of your two dropped scores.
- Note: Dropping lowest scores ARE NOT meant to help your grade average. They are to accommodate the unforeseen circumstances that cause you to miss it. If you do not miss any of them, then you are fortunate it simply serves to benefit your grade.
- Class will likely begin with lecture, and then example problem solving from the text. On quiz days, they may be administered at the beginning or end of class, at my discretion.
- **ON QUIZ DAYS, MAKE SURE THERE IS AN EMPTY SEAT BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOR.**
- Check Laulima for this specific course and your UH email daily for announcements from me to the class. These may include changes to quiz schedule or class cancellations. The University considers communications sent through the hawaii.edu system as “official university correspondence.” Therefore you are responsible for the info whether you read it or not. (Hint: Your hawaii.edu account may be forwarded to other accounts to assure delivery to your preferred account.)