

MTH/STA 379: section 04, credit:3, Fall 2007

STATISTICAL METHODS IN PRACTICE

Instructor:

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OFFICE HOUR: LDB 439C

M, W: 8:30-10:00 a.m.; and 1:30 - 2:00 p.m.

T, Th: 8:15-9:15, and 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment.

CLASS HOUR:

LDB 219: T Th : 11:00-12:20 p.m.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Textbook: Statistical Principles and Methods; Johnson, R. A., and Bhattacharyya, G. K. (2006), Fifth Edition, Wiley; ISBN: 0471656828

Calculator: TI-83/ plus or TI-84 plus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces 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 the data. The three primary topics covered are 1) descriptive statistics (geographic presentation of data, histograms, plots, charts, measures of central tendency, dispersion, position, bivariate data analysis, linear correlation and regression analysis), 2) 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.

COURSE OUTLINE:

I will cover all of the sections in Chapters 1 through 11.

GRADING POLICY:

During the semester, there will be five homeworks, five quizzes, three in-class exams and a cumulative final exam. You are allowed to use one ($8\frac{1}{2} \times 11$) of notes.

Any student who does not take an exam at the scheduled time without prior consent of the instructor will receive a grade of zero on that exam. If any student feels that a sudden illness is sufficiently extreme to warrant a make-up exam, the instructor must be provided with documentation prepared by an appropriate medical authority.

Homeworks and Quizzes: Homework is collected every two-week. In order to assess your progress with the homework I will set a quiz on every two-week, except when there is an exam on that day. This quiz will consist of one of the homework questions which you should have already done. Because of this, you won't have much time to do the quiz and if you haven't worked the problem out previously, you will probably not have enough time.

Item	Total point	Date
5 hw	50	every two-week
5 quiz	50	every two-week
First Mid-Term Exam	100	Tuesday, Sept 18, 2007
Second Mid-Term Exam	100	Tuesday, October 23, 2007
Third Mid-Term Exam	100	Tuesday, December 4, 2007
Final Exam	200	Thursday, December 13, 2:00-4:00, 2006

Your final course will be determined by your cumulative score out of a maximum possible of 600. There is no set formula used to determine the letter grade for the course, but the following are some guidelines,

Total point	Grade
540 – 600	A
480 – 539	B
420 – 479	C
360 – 419	D
≤ 359	F

Attendance:

Attendance is very important. Class attendance is a requirement of this course. Regular attendance will indicate the amount of interest and effort a student is willing to exert in learning. Any student will be allowed 2 class absences without penalty. Any absences over 2 classes will result in final grade reductions. Your final grade will be lowered 10 points for each absence over 2 times.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All work that is handed in for evaluation is to reflect solely your individual performance. Cheating will not be tolerated. A violation will result a grade of F for the semester.

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.

LEARNING DISABILITIES:

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 Counseling Center 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 Counseling Center.

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 eating in class, using tobacco products, 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.

This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

How to beat the system:

I want to give you an incentive to keep working and learning right through the course. To do this there are Bonus Points after each exam and Final Bonus Points at the end of the course. After each test, if you improve your score from the last exam, I will add a bonus of 50 % of your improvement to your final score for the test. The bonus points get added on at the end of the course so if you score 80 on the first exam, 86 in the second exam and 88 in the third exam then you would get 3 bonus points for the second exam and 1 bonus point for the third, since the three bonus points were not added directly to the score for the second. You won't lose bonus points if your score goes down on subsequent exams. Also, at the end of the course, if each test score is higher than the previous one then I'll add a final bonus of 6 points to your total accumulated points.