Introduction to Statistics - Syllabus

Spring 2015

EDP 371

Course Instructor: Martin Tombari

Email: mtombari@austin.utexas.edu

Office: SZB 538B

Office Hours: Wednesdays (on-campus) 10AM-12 Noon; (on-line) 2PM-4PM and by appointment

Sections:

Spring   2015 -Unique Number: 10435   T-Th: 9:30 - 11:00   SZB 435

Spring   2015 -Unique Number: 10440   T-Th: 11:00 - 12:30   SZB 435

Spring   2015 –Unique Number: 10445   T-Th:12:30 – 2:00   SZB 435

Spring   2015 –Unique Number: 10450   T-Th: 2:00 - 3:30   SZB 435

Spring   2015 -Unique Number: 10455   Web Course

Teaching Assistants

Name: Kejin Lee

Office: SZB 538

Office Hours:

Email: kejin@utexas.edu; kejin53@gmail.com.

Name: **Amber Zheng**

Office: SZB 538

Office Hours:

Email: yatingzheng@utexas.edu

Name: **SunYoung Park**

Office:

Office Hours:

Email:

Name: **Emma Thompson**

Office:

Office Hours:

Email:

Course Description:

This course is designed to help students learn the introductory descriptive and inferential statistical procedures that are used in behavioral and social science research studies. Students will acquire statistical literacy, become skilled at graphic production, learn the basics of making inferences from samples to populations, and recognize the statistics used with different types of data. These skills will provide the student with a basis to conduct their own such analyses and to evaluate critically others' uses of statistics.

Quantitative Reasoning:

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of tests to assess your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

Prerequisites

Mathematical skills*:* While this course is not completely mathematical, it is founded upon the use of mathematical tools. Thus some fundamental mathematical skills are essential for successful mastery of the material. Students are expected to have basic algebra skills including the ability to solve single variable equations. Students should have a basic understanding of exponents and square roots, as well as the order of operations, proportions, fractions, decimals, percentage, and negative numbers.

Calculator: Students are required to bring to class a scientific calculator that can be used to sum, multiply, take the square root and square of numbers. Calculators are

recommended for use with class assignments and tests as well as during class time. During in-class exams, you must use a calculator that does not have the capacity to connect to email (use of cell phones is completely **forbidden** during exams).

Course Materials and Resources

Required: EDP 371 Course Packet. The title of the class packet is: *"Stat Sense: Thinking Clearly About Data"*. This packet contains the course objectives that you will be tested over, sample test questions for all exams, homework problems and answers, tables needed to solve test problems, necessary formulae and vocabulary, problems to solve in class, places to take class notes, graph and chart paper to sketch problems, suggested web sites for better understanding and extended practice, links to You Tube videos, and many illustrations. This will only be available through the University COOP Bookstore.

The packet includes important tables and charts and other material that are needed during exams. It also contains research articles over which questions will be asked on all exams. It is important that you bring the packet to class everyday because many class activities, including class quizzes, will require that you have it with you.

 Optional: The optional class text is: "Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences" by Frederick J Gravetter and Larry B Wallnau. This textbook is available at the Co-op and other on-line outlets. It is an excellent text with many interesting problems to solve for your deeper learning. It also presents the material in a slightly different way than the instructor presents the material during class time.

Also, optional, is "Introduction to Statistics: Online Edition" by David M. Lane which we will post on Blackboard for you to download. The course packet will recommend specific pages to read in this online text that reinforce packet material.

Course Requirements

1. Exams

There will be **4 exams** during the Fall semester. The exams, except the final exam, will focus on the material covered during the most recent class segment. The first three exams each will contain 30 multiple choice questions and be worth a total of 90 points. These will count 45% of your final grade. The 4th exam will be held during finals week, contain 50 multiple choice questions, and be worth 75 points to your final grade. The final exam will contain questions from the beginning of the course. **This exam will be two hours long.**

The four exams total to 165 points and count approximately 83% of your class grade.

You must take all exams. If you miss an exam without an excuse (e.g. illness, family mishap), you will receive a grade of zero.

Students taking the course for Credit/No Credit must get a grade of D (70%) to pass the course.

2. Classwork

There will be short class assignments to help you practice, learn, and better understand statistical skills. Most of these projects will be graded. There are no make-ups except for illness or other excusable reasons. If you are absent from class without an excuse you will get a grade of zero. **Classwork counts approximately 17% of your class grade.** You can earn a total of 35 classwork points towards your final grade.

3. Research Participation

You must participate in a research study. More information will be given about this during the first week of class

4. Attendance Policy

Attendance at all classes is required. Attendance will be taken during class on a random basis.

How Grades Will Be Assigned

Grades are assigned based on the percentage of accumulated points. The 4 exams and homework assignments **total to 200** points:

Overall Course Percent	*Grade*
90% of total points	A
80% - 89%	B
75% - 79%	C
70% - 74%	D
Below 70%	F

You may take *one make-up exam* to improve your score on any of the **first three exams** under the following conditions

    1. You have good attendance.

    2. You score no lower than 60% on all exams.

    3. You take every exam.

4. You turn in surveys and other data collection forms.

The make-up exams will be scheduled the last week of the semester. Contact us if you want to take a make-up and to find out if you are eligible.

Scholastic dishonesty policy

The University defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to avoid participating honestly in the learning process. Scholastic dishonesty also includes, but is not limited to, providing false or misleading information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test or other class assignments, and submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of faculty members.

By accepting this syllabus and participating in this course, you have agreed to these guidelines and *must* adhere to them. This means (specifically for this class) that any work that you hand in for a grade ***MUST*** be your own work. This also means that you may ***NOT*** use or review the exams of students of this class from previous semesters.

Violation of this agreement and of any of the University rules on scholastic dishonesty will result in the student being awarded an ***F for the final course grade***, being referred to the appropriate university officials, and may result in suspension or expulsion from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, students may review the Student Judicial Services web site: http://www.utexas.edu/depts/dos/sjs/.

Disability Accommodation

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five business days before an exam, the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed. See the following website for more information:http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php

 (Links to an external site.)

Communication

In this course ***e-mail*** will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work, deadlines, changes and announcements.

You will also be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class

work, announcements, and copies of the lecture notes. As with all computer systems, there are occasionally scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on Canvas. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 am to 6 pm, so plan accordingly.

Hints for success

Practice: Practice will facilitate successful mastery of the skills to be learned from this class. During class periods, guided practice will be offered in the form of sample problems. The homework exercise assignments will also provide opportunities for practice. It is hoped that studying for and completion of exams will provide additional such opportunities.

Office hours: Use them – our job is to help you learn! If you cannot make our office hours, ask us after class or via email to schedule another time to meet with the TA or me.

Email I: Check your email messages from the TAs and me.

Email II: Use email to schedule appointments *NOT* to ask conceptual or computational questions.

Class notes: If a student misses class, it is his/her responsibility to obtain any missed information from a classmate – *not* from the instructor, *nor* from the TA.

Keep up: The skills to be mastered for statistical analyses keep building upon themselves. If you fall behind, it will not only affect the topic in which you are behind but will affect your learning of a later topic.

Schedule of Topics/Readings/Exams

Date:	Topic	Reading
Tu 1/20	Introduction: • What is the aim of statistics? • What are important questions and goals that statistics speaks to? • Where do we get information about these questions? • How do we know if the information is any good? • Let's start speaking the same language.	Unit 1 in Course Packet
Thu 1/22	Describing Data: Tables and Charts • Interpreting Data Tables • Charts and Rules • Interpreting Charts ◦ Truth In Charts	Unit 2

Tu 1/27	Tables and Charts (cont'd)	Unit 2
Thu 1/29	Describing Data: Averages • Mean • Weighted Mean • Median • Mode • So where is the middle?	Unit 3
Tu 2/3	Variability • Range • Variance • Standard Deviation • Interquartile Rang • Choosing the right statistic	Unit 4
Thu 2/5	Variability (cont'd)	Unit 4 pgs. 65-82
Tu 2/10	**Exam # 1**	Units 1 - 4
Thu 2/12	z-Scores • Standardization • Percentile Scores • z-scores	Unit 5
Tu 2/17	The Standard Normal Distribution • Simple probability • Computing Probabilities for z-Scores	Unit 6
Thu 2/19	The Central Limit Theorem • Sampling Procedures • The Distribution of Sample Means • The Standard Error of the Mean • Sample Probabilities	Unit 7
Tu 2/24	The Central Limit Theorem (cont'd) • Sampling Procedures • Sampling error and the standard error	Unit 7
Thu	Confidence Intervals • Point Estimates of Parameters	Unit 8

2/26	• Confidence Intervals using z • Confidence Intervals using t	
Tu 3/3	Confidence Intervals (cont'd)	Unit 8
Thu 3/5	**Exam 2**	Units 5-8
Tu 3/10	Hypothesis Testing • Null and Alternative Hypotheses • One and Two Tail Tests • Type I and Type II Errors • Hypothesis Tests using the z statistic	Unit 9
Thu 3/12	Inferences Involving Averages • Inferences About Averages of One Sample	Unit 10
Tu 3/24	Inferences Involving Averages (cont'd)	Unit 10
Thu 3/26	Inferences Involving Averages • Inferences About Averages of One Sample	Unit 10
Tu 3/31	Inferences Involving Averages • Inferences About Averages of One Sample	Unit 10
Thu 4/2	Review	Unit 10
Tu 4/7	**Exam 3**	Unit 9 & 10
Thu 4/9	Correlation • Pearson • Scale • Interpretation • What affects magnitude?	Unit 11
Tu 4/14	Correlation (cont'd)	Unit 11

Thu 4/16	Predictions • Least Squares • Slope • Y intercept • Coefficient of Determination	Unit 11
Tu 4/21	Inferences About Associations: • Goodness of Fit • Contingency Analysis	Unit 12
Thu 4/23	Inferences About Associations: • Goodness of Fit • Contingency Analysis	Unit 12
Tu 4/28	Inferences About Proportions • Polling	Unit 13
Thu 4/30	Inferences About Proportions • Profiling	Unit 13
Final Exams Week	**Exam 4**	Cumulative