

Math 141-B02 – Introductory Statistics – Course Policies

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OFFICE HOURS: Posted on website
And by appointment (Really!)
TEXTS: *Intro Stats* by De Veaux and Velleman (2004 edition)

Overview

The emphasis in this course is to give you experience with, and understanding of, data analysis and statistical inference, as well as an understanding of some of the issues with data production. One of the major goals is to help you become a knowledgeable and skeptical consumer of statistics. To quote Rich Single, a friend of mine who is a statistician,

We are bombarded every day with numerous statistics. Some are from well designed studies and some are from poorly defined studies; some are clear and understandable, some are unintentionally misleading, and some are purposefully misleading. It is becoming more and more important to be able to discern among these.

Course Goals and Expectations

Two of the goals of this course are that you learn to evaluate technical material and that you learn to communicate this material clearly and precisely. Therefore, a major emphasis of all of the assignments in the course is that your explanations be complete and thorough. The class will be structured with some lectures to emphasize particular topics, but much of the time will be spent on in-class work. The class meetings are not intended to be a complete encapsulation of the course material:

<p>There will be material in the text for which you are responsible that we will not cover in class.</p>

You will have a reading assignment for nearly every Monday that covers the material we will discuss that week. It is **extremely** important that you complete the reading before class. Although you may not completely understand the entire section, the class meetings will be much more beneficial to you if you are familiar with the basic topics for the week.

We will be using the statistical software package Minitab heavily during the semester. Minitab is a wonderful tool for performing the routine calculations and generation of graphs that will allow you to do meaningful statistical analysis that would be almost impossible otherwise. As you will see, it is important that you develop a level of competence with Minitab during the semester.

You should expect to put in *at least* 2 hours outside of class for each hour in class. In other words, expect to spend at least 6 hours per week on Statistics outside of class. There will be some weeks where you spend more time (e.g. preparing for exams), and there may be some weeks where you do not spend the full 6 hours.

Evaluation

Your final grade will be determined by

Two In-Class Exams	50%
Final Exam	30%
Reading Assignments	5%
Homework	15%

The Honor Code

Remember that we are operating under the Honor Code for all of your academic work while you are at Wheaton. I take this quite seriously. This carries freedoms and responsibilities for both you as students and me as the professor. The best approach is to avoid any situation where there is a temptation to violate the Honor Code. Or if you find yourself in such a position, you should remove yourself from it.

Remember that you should write out, and sign, the following statement on all course work:

“I have abided by the Wheaton College Honor Code in this work.”

Exams

The dates for the exams are given on the syllabus on the course webpage. Each exam may have a short open-book, open-note, open-Minitab takehome part, but the majority of the exam will be given in-class and will be closed-book and closed-note. You will be allowed to bring an 8.5×11 piece of paper, handwritten on one side, which you will turn in with the exam. We will also have a question and answer session before each exam.

Reading Assignments

You will have a reading assignment due nearly every Monday morning. I will put a copy of each reading assignment on the Math 141 homepage (linked from my homepage). Each assignment will include several questions that you should be able to answer after you have read the section.

See the [*Guidelines for submitting reading assignments*](#) and [*Suggestions for reading a math book*](#) on the course web page for more information on submitting the assignments.

Homework

You will have a homework assignment due nearly every Wednesday, which will be posted on the course webpage. Each assignment will be worth a total of 15 points and will be graded by an advanced statistics student. I will somewhat randomly pick two problems from each assignment to grade carefully. This will count for ten of the points, and the grader will quickly scan the rest of your assignment for the remaining five points. The homework assignments will alternate between Individual assignments and Group assignments.

Group Assignments

For the Group assignments, you will work in groups of two (preferably) or three of your choosing. *Each* student should attempt *all* of the homework problems, and the group should meet to complete the assignment. Each group will turn in one paper with one student designated as the primary author who writes-up the solutions for that assignment. **The role of primary author must rotate among the members of the group.**

Each group assignment will receive a single grade, and the group will determine how the points are allocated to each member. For example, if a group of two receives 11 out of 15 on an assignment, then the group will have $2 \times 11 = 22$ points to distribute between them. I will be available to mediate this process, if necessary.

Working with other students on homework

You may discuss Individual assignments with other students, but under no circumstances should you turn in work that is identical to another student's. The paper you turn in *must* represent your own efforts. Further, you should indicate on your paper if you collaborated with another student.

Guidelines for presentation of your homework

If you do not follow these, I reserve the right to return your homework ungraded.

- Your homework must be typed and stapled together. This will allow you to include output from Minitab with your assignments.
- You must put your name and date on the first page of each assignment.
- Your homework should be well-written, using complete sentences to justify your results where necessary.
A list of answers without explanation is not acceptable.
- Here is a good rule of thumb to follow when writing up your homework:
Write your solutions so that you could hand them to a student in a different section of Statistics and she could understand your explanation.
- Clearly label each problem with the chapter and exercise number.
- If you do work with other students on an assignment, you must indicate that in a note on the top of your paper.

In order to give you some time to look over your assignment after you have asked questions, I will leave 10 minutes of class on Monday to answer homework questions.

**Expect to spend 4-6 hours for each homework assignment,
so be sure to start early!**

**The homework is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday
Late homework is not accepted!! No exceptions!!**

You will be allowed to drop one homework assignment at the end of the semester.

I do not intend to give quizzes during the semester, but if I feel that the class is not keeping up with the course work, I reserve the right to give quizzes that will be counted into the homework grade. The quizzes would be announced at least one class meeting in advance.

Class Attendance

Although class attendance is not a specified percentage of your grade, I will keep a class roll to help me determine borderline grades at the end of the semester. If you do miss class, you are responsible for the material that was covered.

Getting Help

Please come see me during my office hours! This is why I have them scheduled!

If you have a conflict and cannot make my office hours, please call or email me and we can set up an appointment for another time.