

Syllabus

Econ 311: Statistical Methods and Interpretation I
MW 2:10PM-4:00, HSS 147
M6:10PM-9:50, HSS 380
Fall 2009

Instructor: Sang-Yeob Lee

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Course web: <http://bss.sfsu.edu/sylee/econ311.htm>

Office Phone: 405-2615

Office: HSS 144

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 PM or by appointment
(Supplementary office hours will be announced in class)

Course Objectives:

This is the first introductory course in undergraduate statistics in the core statistics sequence for all economics majors. Throughout the course, we explore statistical methods essential in solving economic and business problems under uncertainty, including probability theory, methods of statistical description and inference, sampling theory, estimation, hypothesis testing, and statistical software applications (Excel).

Prerequisites:

Math 226 (Calculus I). You must be willing to come to class regularly as this will affect your grade in the course.

Textbook:

The text for this course is *Statistics for Business and Economics*, 7th edition, by Paul Newbold, William L. Carlson, and Betty Thorne.

Grading:

Your grade for this course will be based on six problem sets, two midterm exams, and a final exam. The fraction of the points allocated to each is shown below. Thus, your score on the problem set will be calculated from your five best problem sets. An alternative grade breakdown is provided for students who do poorly on the midterms but who do better on the final. Your score will be calculated using both point allocations, and the highest score will be chosen automatically.

	Grade Breakdown	Alternative Grade Breakdown
Best 5 Problem sets (6% each)	30%	30%
2 Midterms (20% each)	40%	30%
Final Exam	30%	40%
Extra Credit (5%) TBA		

As is common, your final letter grades will be assigned based on a relative scale.

Making up Policy:

No make up exam will be provided for the midterm. Students missing the midterm for unavoidable and formally verifiable reasons will be graded on the alternative grade breakdown (out of a total of 85 points). Students missing the final for unavoidable and formally verifiable reasons will be given a make up exam. Exams missed for avoidable or for unverifiable reasons will be assigned a grade of 0.

Problem Sets:

Problem sets will be handed out in class roughly a week before they are due. The due dates are subject to modification depending on the progress of the course. Problem sets are due at the beginning of the class. No credit will be given for the late problem sets. As indicated above, your lowest scored problem set will be dropped.

You are encouraged to work with your classmates on the problem sets. You must hand in your own set of answers with explanations in your own words. If a problem requires calculations or math, you must show your work. Identical copies of joint work are not acceptable.

Problem sets will be posted on the course web page after they are handed out in class. Problem set answers will be posted on the course web page. If you miss class, please visit the web page for any announcement you may have missed.

Academic Misconduct:

Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with plagiarism.

If I determine that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanction for the misconduct could be a failing grade in this course. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Disability Programs and Resource Center Services (338-2472) will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

Class Schedule

Note that dates (other than Exams) are tentative and may change, depending on the progress of the course.

Week 1

August 26 Introduction

Week 2

August 31 Ch1 Why Study Statistics?

September 2 Ch.1 Describing Data: Graphical

Week 3

September 7 Holiday (Labor Day)

September 9 Ch.1 Describing Data: Graphical

Week 4

September 14 Ch.2 Describing Data: Numerical (PS#1)

September 16 Ch.2 Describing Data: Numerical

Week 5

September 21 Ch.3 Probability

September 23 Ch.3 Probability

Week 6

September 28 Ch.3 Probability (PS#2)

September 30 Review or Catch up

Week 7

October 5 Midterm 1

October 7 Ch.4 Discrete Random Variables and Probability Distributions

Week 8

October 12 Ch.4 Discrete Random Variables and Probability Distributions

October 14 Ch.4 Discrete Random Variables and Probability Distributions

Week 9

October Ch.5 Continuous Random Variables and Probability Distributions (PS#3)

October 21 Ch.5 Continuous Random Variables and Probability Distributions

Week 10

October 26 Campus Closure

October 28 Ch.5 Continuous Random Variables and Probability Distributions

Week 11

November 2 Ch.6 Sampling and Sampling Distribution

November 4 Ch.6 Sampling and Sampling Distribution

Week 12

November 9 Review or Catch up (PS#4)

November 11 Campus Closure

Week 13

November 16 Midterm 2

November 18 No Class

Week 14

November 23 Campus Closure

November 25 Campus Closure

Week 15

November 30 Ch.7 Estimation: Single Population

December 2 Ch.7 Estimation: Single Population

Week 16

December 7 Ch.9 Hypothesis Testing (PS#5)

December 9 Ch.9 Hypothesis Testing

Week 17

December 14 Review or Catch up (PS#6)

Final Exam -Held in Normal Class Room in Cumulative, but emphasis on new material.

Econ 312.01 : Wednesday, December 16 (2:10-4:00 PM)

Econ 312.02 : Monday, December 21 (6:10-8:00 PM)