

# INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS

Math 208, Section E, Fall 2006

Instructor: Melissa Barnett

Room: Wass 2

Meeting Time: 2:00 – 3:15, Mon. & Wed

E-mail: mbarnett@lasell.edu

Office: Wass 30A

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 1 – 2pm  
(or by appointment)

Office Phone: 243-2063 (to contact me at  
Wass 30A during scheduled office hours)

## REQUIRED TEXT:

1. McClave, James T. & Terry Sincich. 2006. *A First Course in Statistics*, 9<sup>th</sup> edition.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES & GOALS:

For many students, even the mere mention of the word ‘statistics’ can be rather frightening, while to others it may seem to come naturally. While statistics does utilize math as its primary language, the foundation of statistics actually delves more into logical reasoning than making sure you memorize a list of convoluted mathematical equations. In this course, I hope to show students who may consider themselves ‘math-phobic’ the benefit of statistics and how you might use it in your everyday life. For those students who do not shy away from math-centered courses, I hope to introduce you to how statistics can be used in a sound and an unsound manner. For all students, no matter your background, you will begin to see how statistics has a language all of its own, and it will take some getting used to. I encourage you to review what terms mean on a regular basis. Statistics is a multi-layered subject. In other words, what you learn in this course will continue to grow beyond our time together, especially if you test its premises within your everyday surroundings. I hope to supply you with the tools you will need to further understand and make sense of the world around us.

At the conclusion of this course, you will be able to describe and make inferences from data, possess a greater understanding of probability, test hypotheses (i.e., testable assumptions), make informed decisions based on confidence intervals and perform simple linear regression.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Three (3) Exams      | 30 percent each = 90 percent |
| 2. Active Participation | 10 percent                   |

Final Letter Grades will be based on the following scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; anything below 60 = F

**[NOTE:** There will be no ‘rounding up’ or ‘curving’ in this class. However, if your final grade is, for example, an 89.999, it will be to my discretion to assign an ‘A,’ ‘B,’ etc. grade. Additionally, if there is an exam question that consistently causes problems for most students, I will consider throwing it out. Finally, if you are concerned about your grade, **it is your responsibility to come and see me as early in the term as possible.**]

1. **EXAMS (3):** During the semester, 3 exams will be administered, which will be based on our text and in-class work. All exams will include multiple-choice, short-answer, and open-ended questions where you will need to explain the statistical concept, relationship or perform a calculation. The first two exams will cover the chapters focused upon since the beginning of class and from the previous exam, respectively; whereas, **the Final Exam will be cumulative.**

## EXAM DATES:

1. Exam 1: Wednesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>
2. Exam 2: Wednesday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>
3. Exam 3/Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> (from 3:30 to 5:30)

2. **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (DAILY):** Throughout the course, I will assign homework problems from the current chapter/section. Though these problems will not be graded, we will work on them in class, where students will be called to the board to present his or her solution so the class might compare their answers. We will go over what the student did correctly/incorrectly and how we might learn from the student's solution. Given the language of statistics and the detailed-oriented subject matter of this course, you are expected to actively participate in these exercises. If a student is called upon and repeatedly does not have at least a partial solution, it will go against his or her active participation grade. Repetition is the key when learning statistics; therefore, it is crucial that you read the assigned readings *prior* to coming to class and attempt ALL homework problems, even if you are unable to complete it entirely.

## **MISSED CLASSES, EXAMS & CLASS BEHAVIOR:**

### *1. Missed Classes, Missed Exams & Lateness to Class*

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to gather the information from another classmate. I will not 're-play' the class for you, but I will discuss questions you might have concerning specific topics covered.

- 1). Only students who can provide documentation for excused absences will be allowed to make-up exams.
- 2). However, if you know you will need to miss class on an exam day, it is your responsibility to contact me 24 HOURS BEFORE the scheduled exam and discuss your situation with me to gain permission to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam for any other than the two reasons listed, you will not be eligible to take a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be given AFTER the scheduled exam.

### *2. Final Notes*

- Talking with or speaking to other classmates while others (the instructor or a classmate) is highly frowned upon.
- Cell phones & other electronic devices: I understand the difficulty of always remembering to **turn off your cell phone or pagers, etc. before class.** However, to the best of your ability, please remember to turn it off before entering the classroom. Nothing is worse than a ringing / 'singing' phone while someone is speaking, taking an exam, etc.
- All e-mail correspondence will be sent to your Lasell e-mail account. If this is not your 'main' e-mail account, be sure to check it for course up-dates or communication. Additionally, when sending me e-mail, please indicate who you are so that I don't have to 'figure out' who is writing me.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

*"Students have a responsibility to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. They are expected to perform educational tasks with the highest moral and ethical conduct. Academic dishonesty, depending on the severity of the infraction, may produce consequences, which range from a reduction in grade for the particular assignment involved to a failing grade for the course. The catalog contains a more completed description of academic dishonesty."*

## **ACCOMMODATION FOR SPECIAL NEEDS:**

If you have special needs due to a learning disability or other condition(s) that requires special arrangements for testing or meeting assignment due dates, let me know as soon as possible (preferably during the first week of class). ***YOU must approach me about your situation and not assume arrangements made with other professors or the Learning Center during the current semester or past semesters apply to this course.*** The Learning Center has technology that can help you with reading and writing needs, and we can also arrange special testing sessions. My goal is to make it possible for all students to have a successful experience in this class.

## SCHEDULED CLASS READINGS & OTHER DUE DATES\*

(NOTE: ALL READINGS ARE TO BE READ PRIOR TO CLASS FOR THE DATE INDICATED.)

Monday, Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to course and syllabus
Wednesday, Sept. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Read Chapter 1
Monday, Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 2.1 to 2.4
Wednesday, Sept. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 2.5 and 2.6
Monday, Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 2.7, 2.9 and 2.10; Pg. 84 and 90
Wednesday, Sept. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 3.1 to 3.3
Monday, Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Read Sections 3.4 and 3.5
Wednesday, Oct. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 3.6 and 3.7
Monday, Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	<u>COLUMBUS DAY: NO CLASS</u>
Wednesday, Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EXAM #1</b>
Monday, Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 4.1 to 4.3
Wednesday, Oct. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 4.4 to 4.6
Monday, Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Read Sections 4.8 and 4.9
Wednesday, Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 5.1 to 5.3
Monday, Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 5.4 and 5.5
Wednesday, Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Read Sections 6.1 and 6.2
Monday, Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 6.3 to 6.5
Wednesday, Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>EXAM #2</b>
Monday, Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 7.1 and 7.2
Wednesday, Nov. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 7.3 and 7.6
Monday, Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 8.1 and 8.2
Wednesday, Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<u>THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS</u>
Monday, Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 8.3 and 8.4
Wednesday, Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 9.1 and 9.2
Monday, Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 9.3 to 9.5
Wednesday, Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 9.6 and 9.7

Monday, Dec. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Read Sections 9.8 and 9.9
Wednesday, Dec. 13 <sup>th</sup>	Review Day
Wednesday, Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FINAL EXAM FROM 3:30 – 5:30</b>

**\*This schedule is tentative. Every effort will be made to adhere to the schedule. However, if changes are necessary, students will be given ample notice.**