

Syllabus for MATH 155 – Modern Statistics with Computer Analysis

Professor Keough, Fall, 2009

Abbreviated Version

Course Description

MATH 155 is a one-semester, introductory statistics course intended for students in the social and natural sciences. Emphasis is placed on the proper use and interpretation of descriptive and inferential analysis of data, with careful attention paid to assumptions that underlie the data. Both traditional, parametric methods and some non-parametric methods will be introduced in the course.

Prerequisites

High school Algebra I and II and Plane Geometry.

Textbook

A First Course in Statistics - Tenth Edition, by James T. McClave and Terry Sincinch, Pearson Education (we use a specially-extracted version of the text containing only Chapters 1 through 8; you can find it in the SU bookstore as ISBN:978-0-53-609487-2).

The course covers the following content: Chapter 1 (all); Chapter 2 (all except section 9); Chapter 3 (sections 1 through 6); Chapter 4 (all); Chapter 5 (all except section 4); Chapter 6 (all except section 5); and Chapter 7 (sections 1 through 5). Other topics either from the text or via instructor-supplied notes will be added as time permits.

Calculator

A calculator is required for the course. You'll use it for exams and assignments, and you should have it with you in class every day.

I highly recommend the TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator, since each has a large number of statistical routines that can be used in class this semester (although this may not necessarily mean that the course will be easier for you by using one of these). However, note that

- You may not use a calculator tool found on your cell phone, iPhone, or Blackberry-like device.
- Calculators may not be shared during exams: each student should have his or her own.

When and Where We Meet

Our class meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday between August 31 and December 9, with the *only* exceptions being September 7 (Labor Day) and the Thanksgiving recess (November 25 and 27). We meet in **Devilbiss Hall room 109**, with Section 011 gathering from 1:00 to 1:50 PM, and section 012 from 2:00 to 2:50 PM.

Your attendance is expected at these classes. If you miss a class, it is *your* responsibility to get notes from class from a fellow student, and copies of any handouts either from the class website or from me at my office.

Class Website

We will use Blackboard/WebCT as our official means of communication. Log in to myclasses.salisbury.edu using your usual username and password. You'll find a calendar of class coverage and assignments, info on your grades, a link to this document, and whatever else we can provide.

The complete syllabus is available on the class website and students are expected to be familiar with it, especially the section on Policies and Procedures.

Examinations, Quizzes, and Assignments

Exams. The following are the dates for exams.

- Exam #1: **Wednesday, September 23**
- Exam #2: **Wednesday, October 14**
- Exam #3: **Wednesday, November 4**
- Exam #4: **Wednesday, December 2**
- Final Exam (this will be conducted on-line in a computer lab):

for Section 011 (1 PM): Tuesday, December 15, beginning at 10:45 (2 hour exam)

for Section 012 (2 PM): Wednesday, December 16, beginning at 4:15 (2 hour exam)

Students are expected to take exams on the assigned dates and with the section of the class in which they are registered. *There are no makeup exams.*

Quizzes. Beginning Friday, September 11, we will have a quiz at the end of class approximately every week when there is no examination scheduled. There will be a total of nine (9) quizzes this semester, planned for the following dates:

Fridays Sep 11, Sep 18, Oct 02, Oct 09, Oct 23, Oct 30, Nov 13, **Monday** Nov 23, and **Wednesday** Dec 09

The material for each quiz will be (unless announced otherwise) drawn from the content of the classes immediately preceding the quiz.

For exams and quizzes, you should bring your calculator. No notes, books, or electronic devices other than your graphing calculator may be used during exams.

Assignments. Homework assignments will be posted at almost every class. Solutions for (most) exercises will be posted on the assignments page at our class website. The material for quizzes and exams will be drawn mostly from these assignments.

Computer Laboratory Assignments. Three (*or four?*) computer lab assignments will be given during the semester. You'll be expected to visit one of the computer labs, carry out statistical procedures using MINITAB statistical software, and then write up a report of the exercise which is both mathematically accurate and details your work and conclusions in well written English.

Semester Grading

The four, in-class examinations will count **15%** each. The cumulative, 2 hour final exam will count **20%**. The *best seven of your nine* quiz results will collectively count **15%**. The laboratory assignments will count **5%**. Your final, letter grade will be determined primarily from this computation, with minor adjustments for whatever else I know about your situation.

Office Hours/Getting Help

Professor G. E. Keough

Henson Science Building Room 130, 410.543.6467 (recommendation: use email!)

Monday: 11:00 – 12:45; 3:00 – 3:45

Wednesday: 11:00 – 12:45; 3:00 – 3:45

Friday: 11:00 – 12:45

I expect to be available on some Tuesdays this semester (I will announce availability for these as we go through the semester). I can be available for a short time after I finish class on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:45. I am not on campus on Thursday.

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