

## Welcome to Predict 401 Section 55

My name is Roy L. Sanford PhD. I will be your instructor for Predict 401. Todd Peterson MS will be your Teaching Assistant. During the course we will study statistical methods, and use the language R. Two videos are available on the course site that will introduce you to the course. **Please watch these videos, and before purchasing textbooks, review the purchasing options and final proctored exam requirements described in this communication.** Links to the videos appear below:

- <https://northwestern.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=2d2b4a69-adbb-4957-a41e-966d0faf3b70>
- <https://northwestern.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=d9335102-ec2b-4e0d-abf3-06429a475c0a>.

## Required Textbooks Available from the Abbott Hall Bookstore:

Black (2013). *Business Statistics*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.  
[ISBN-13: 978-1-119-33496-5] This ISBN number includes a registration access code to WileyPLUS. (The correct access code is not available from third party vendors.)

Davies, Tilman M. (2016) *The Book of R*, San Francisco, CA: No Starch Press  
[ISBN-13: 978-1593276515]

Kabacoff, R. I. (2015) *R in Action*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Shelter Island, NY: Manning Co.  
[ISBN-13: 978-1617291388]

Wilcox, R. R. (2009). *Basic Statistics*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press.  
[ISBN-13: 978-0195315103]

## Alternative Purchasing Options:

*Business Statistics* 9<sup>th</sup> ed. may be purchased on the Predict 401 Course Site with an access code for WileyPLUS. Wiley offers different options including an eBook. Be aware, the ISBN number shown above for *Business Statistics* is specific to this course.

*Basic Statistics* is available in hardcopy and electronic versions from various vendors.

*The Book of R* can be obtained in an electronic version at <https://www.nostarch.com/bookofr>.









*R in Action*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed can be obtained in an electronic version at <https://www.manning.com/books/r-in-action-second-edition>.

## Business Statistics and WileyPLUS

This course uses a learning tool called **WileyPLUS** which accompanies *Business Statistics*. This tool provides a full digital textbook with videos and other resources. To access WileyPLUS, you must purchase an access code. There are different purchasing options. A loose leaf binder textbook which includes the WileyPLUS access code may be purchased from the NWU Chicago Campus Bookstore. Should you purchase the textbook from a third party vendor, the correct access code may be obtained separately online through the course site the first time you attempt to use WileyPLUS. Wiley offers different options online. A page will appear the first time you click on the Canvas course site item titled "WileyPLUS Read, Study and Practice". A copy is shown below. **To avoid difficulties, purchase this access code either from the NWU Chicago Campus Bookstore, or directly from Wiley through the course site as explained below. Access codes purchased from Amazon or another third party may not work for this course.**

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Depending on your browser, it may be necessary to disable mixed content blocking to complete the purchasing process. This is the case with Firefox. Here is a link with explanation:

<https://support.mozilla.org/t5/Protect-your-privacy/Mixed-content-blocking-in-Firefox/ta-p/10990>.

Each browser is different. Information is available on the course site in the WileyPLUS module.

## Programming Language

We will use the language R to do statistical analysis. We do not teach R as a computer language. Studying R early in the quarter will be important to your success in the course. On the course site there is a module with a number of resources related to R. I encourage you to review these materials, and view the lynda.com tutorials. **You will be tested on the *Quick Start Guide for R* the third week of the course.** Consequently, I am sending this guide, and the answer key along with this letter. Todd Peterson and I are available to answer questions.

## Proctored Final Exam

The Predict 401 Final Exam is proctored. Planning ahead may save you time and effort later. **Only one computer screen is allowed for this exam. The proctor must have visibility of your computer screen which means the proctor will have access to your computer during the exam. Browsing the internet is not permitted. Use of separate devices such as iPads, which allow for internet access, is not permitted. Pertinent electronic materials and software are expected to be resident on the computer used for testing. You may use printed notes, hard copy of course materials and your text books during the test.** Cloud storage of files is allowed. Use of an e-reader, such as Kindle for PC, is permitted for viewing digital versions of texts. For notes and documents stored on a separate device, such as a kindle, a USB connection will be necessary to view these materials.

## Instructors

I have been an executive, consultant and educator: I have applied statistical methods in R&D, service, manufacturing and governmental settings. A brief biography appears on the course site. We are fortunate that Todd Peterson will serve as the TA. Todd graduated from the Predictive Analytics program and is very well versed in R. He and I look forward to learning about you and serving as your instructors. Be sure to post your introduction.

Sincerely,

Roy L. Sanford PhD