

PSQF 4143: Introduction to Statistical Methods

Fall 2015 / MWF: 12:30 – 1:20 pm / EPB 107

Brandon LeBeau, Ph.D.

E-mail: brandon-lebeau@uiowa.edu

Office: 200B Lindquist Center South

Office Hours: MWF: 11 am – 12 pm or by appointment



An approximate answer to the right problem is worth a good deal more than
an exact answer to an approximate problem.

– John Tukey

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to statistics. Upon completion of the course, students should be comfortable with basic descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and the ability to reason logically using statistics. The focus will be less on computations and more on reasoning and interpreting statistical results.

Course Objectives

The lectures have the following goals:

1. to clarify difficult concepts,
2. to integrate new concepts with previous material,
3. to relate new concepts with relevant external situations,
4. to supply additional examples for illustrating concepts under discussion.

In addition to lectures, there will be discussion sections held to provide more in depth exposure to materials in the text and class assignments. These can be a great avenue to ask questions and receive support for concepts that are difficult to grasp in lectures.

Textbook

Kirk, Roger (2007). *Statistics: an introduction*. Cengage Learning.
Student Coursepack for Introduction to Statistical Methods (2015).

Course Requirements

Minimum Competency Exams

There will be three minimum competency exams taken during lectures. The dates can be found on the course schedule. A cut score will be established so that these exams are pass/fail.

- If you should fail a minimum competency exam, you can take another minimum competency exam over the same material.
- It is your responsibility to contact the teaching assistant to arrange for a make-up exam.
- An unexcused absence from a minimum competency exam will result in a score of zero on the exam with no opportunity for make-up.
- Your final grade will be reduced by one full letter for each minimum competency exam not passed by the deadline date.

Additional information on the minimum competency exams can be found in the coursepack.

Application Exams

There will also be three application exams that are taken outside of lectures. The dates can be found on the course schedule. The application exams will be multiple choice exams that are designed to measure objectives at a higher cognitive level compared to the minimum competency exams. An unexcused absence from an application exam will result in a score of zero on the exam.

Additional information on the application exams can be found in the coursepack.

Absences

An absence from either exam must be cleared with the instructor **before** the exam date.

Grading

To be eligible for a C- in the course, students must meet the following requirements:

- pass all three minimum competency exams
- correctly answer a minimum of 25% of the items across all three application exams

The assignment of grades above C- is based on performance on the applications exams. Plus/minus grading will be used.

Course and University Policies

Announcements and Communication

Any announcements regarding the course will be communicated via e-mail so please check it daily.

Course materials will be posted to ICON. Go to icon.uiowa.edu for access to the ICON site.

Adaptations and Modifications

Please inform me during the first two weeks if you require special adaptations or modifications to any assignment or due dates because of special circumstances such as learning disabilities, religious observances, or other appropriate needs.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism and cheating may result in grade reduction and/or serious penalties. College policy on student academic misconduct: <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/dean/policies/student-academic-misconduct.aspx>

Other Information

Please be aware of University policy statements regarding academic misconduct, academic accommodations, student complaint procedures, etc. Consult the following websites:

- Student disability services <http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/>
- College policy on student complaints and dispute resolution <http://www.education.uiowa.edu/dean/policies/student-complaint.aspx>
- University policies on sexual harassment <http://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/community-policies/sexual-harassment> or <http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/policy.php>

- University statements on student rights and responsibilities <http://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/>
- This course is provided by the College of Education and the Division of Continuing Education. Policies on matters such as course requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College of Education. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive approval of the Dean of the College of Education. The University policy on cross enrollments is at <http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc>