

ECON 2843-851 (Fall 2024): Elements of Statistics (Syllabus)

Instructor: Sara Asgari

Office Location: 321 Cate Center Building 1

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Class: Online (All material is on Canvas)

Office hours: With advanced notice, phone or video conferencing appointments for office hours can be made when needed.

Communications: Communications will be accomplished primarily through Canvas and by email. All pertinent student emails will be answered within 24- 48 hours of their arrival unless prior notice of a delayed response is provided. For a quicker response, please put the course prefix and number in the subject line (e.g., ECON 1123: Question about the Syllabus).

Zoom lecture link:

Sara Asgari is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/93836791279?pwd=nrkFNYkbMuZGyRSVTIBWqdCTSFFoKY.1>

Meeting ID: 938 3679 1279

Passcode: 65324487

What is Statistics all about?

This is an introductory statistics course, which surveys basic statistical techniques with particular emphasis on business and economic applications. The learning objective of this course is to improve students' analytical skills in understanding and employing the descriptive and inferential statistics. We begin this course by learning how to describe the data in use. Then, we focus on applied probability theory, which enables us to understand the essence of statistical inference. And for the rest of the course, we explore multiple inference tools such as confidence interval estimation, hypothesis testing, and the analysis of variance. These tools help us make use of sample data to reach conclusions about population parameters.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, my goal is that you are able to:

1. Understand and explain basic statistical concepts and basic elements of real-world situations and to use the knowledge.
2. Apply your understanding of statistics to current events, and being able to distinguish between correct and incorrect logic.
3. Take away a long-lasting interest in economics, statistics and the economy.

Classroom Expectations:

1. **You are expected to PARTICIPATE in the lecture even though we are attending via Zoom.**
2. **You consistently check Canvas and work through all the assignments sent via Canvas.** Students who regularly schedule time to complete assignments and participate in discussions have repeatedly been shown to improve learning, and retention, and score higher on tests.
3. **You should complete assignments on time.** to help build your knowledge of economics and statistics, as well as to develop better time management skills for your career. While every assignment is open for a significant window of time to allow for scheduling and completion, if you miss a due date, a **10 percent penalty** will be applied once the due date is passed
4. **Always show respect and courtesy to one another.** Absolutely no rude remarks directly at a classmate or other person will be tolerated. Economics often involves discussions of controversial issues, such as illegal immigration, trade policy, environmental regulation, subsidies and taxes, and wealth/poverty/inequality. The classroom is a place to respect all students' views on these topics. Respect the person, even if you do not agree with their opinion. This also applies to course discussion boards, where all comments should be respectful and professional.

Textbook:

The required text for the course is Jaggia and Kelly Business Statistics, ISBN-10: 1260716309 and ISBN-13: 978-1260716306

To succeed in this class, it is critical that you spend time learning economics and statistics both inside and outside of the classroom. You need to purchase the e-book or hard copy version with Connect access. You can do this through the OU bookstore, the Connect website, or the course website which has a direct link to the purchase. .

If you have a problem using the Connect website, you should contact them at <http://mhhe.com/support> [Links to an external site.](#) or call 1-800-331-5094 rather than contacting me.

Canvas & Class Communication:

The Canvas website has a number of helpful resources. **The Canvas website also links directly to Connect, providing easy access to your online homework**, exams, and e-book. This gives a great platform to engage with questions that are very similar to exam questions. A document giving step-by-step instructions on how to link up directly with Connect is available on the Canvas Website.

Office Hours:

With advanced notice, phone or video conferencing appointments for office hours can be made when needed.

Student Evaluation:

Students will have the opportunity to provide feedback on this course throughout the semester as well as at the end of the semester on the University-wide course evaluations found at <https://eval.ou.edu>.

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Assignments and Grades:

Homework on Connect:

Assignments in total cover 550 points out of 1000 points of the course total!

Each chapter will have a variety of homework tasks, including assignments, "Connect the Dots" videos, application-based activities, and chapter assessments. You must purchase the e-book with Connect to access homework and exams.

These Smart Book activities are designed to help you learn in a manner tailored to your style and strengths. Aim to score 100% on these assignments! Most of the Smart Book homework requires a certain number of correct responses. Missed questions do not lower your grade; they just extend the time needed to complete the assignment. You can start, stop, and resume an assignment as needed, offering plenty of flexibility.

DO NOT WAIT until the last minute to complete your homework assignments! Internet connections can go down, computers can crash, you may feel ill, or have an emergency – plus countless other possibilities. Each assignment is available for at least 7 days and can be done ANYTIME from ANYWHERE (with internet access). If you miss the deadline for an assignment, you still have access to submit that assignment, but you get a 10% penalty, it's that simple.

All assignments can be accessed through the Canvas class website under Assignments.

Exams:

Exams in total cover 400 points out of 1000 points of the course total!

The class is broken up into four sections. You will have four exams: Exam 1, Exam 2, Exam 3, and Exam 4. These exams are given online through your Connect account and are strictly timed. Each exam is scheduled at the end of each week on Fridays and will be available from 8:00 to 11:59 AM. You have 120 minutes to complete the exam once you start, with only one attempt allowed. Each exam consists of 50 multiple-choice and graphical-based questions, covering only the material from that specific week. Exams are not cumulative. Each exam is worth a total of **100** points.

A 10-point curve will be added to each naturally earned Exam score. There is no other curve for the exams.

To ensure **academic integrity**, the exams will be protected with browser locking and remote proctoring options.

If you have an emergency and you miss that session, contact me as soon as possible. All students who need extended testing accommodations through the ADRC are encouraged to sign up for it as soon as possible.

In addition, practice exams will be available on Thursdays every week. These practice exams include questions from the same test bank that the actual exams are taken from. They are designed solely for practice and do not affect your grade in any way.

Class Participation:

Attendance will not be recorded formally, but every session will include a **class quiz** that contributes to a total of **50 points** out of the 1000 total class points. Missing a class means missing the opportunity to take these quizzes, and consequently, the chance to earn these crucial points. Please keep in mind that this is a summer course, missing one or two days means missing 1-2 entire chapters.

Grade Calculation:

The course uses a simple **POINT ACCUMULATION** grading system. The steps are:

1. STEP 1: Take the 4 scores you earned on Exam 1, 2,3 & 4; Add them up. (Out of 400)
2. STEP 2: To the total from Step 1, add your total Homework points. (Out of 550)
3. STEP 3: To the total from Step 2, add your total Class quiz points. (Out of 50)
4. STEP 4: To the total from Step 3, add extra credit points. (Out of 50)

Letter grades are determined as follows:

A: 900 points or more	B: 800 points or more	C: 700 points or more
D: 600 points or more	F: 599 points or less	

I reserve the right to adjust the final grade based on active participation throughout the course.

Tentative Schedule:

Please see the **class schedule pdf** that is on the Class Canvas page for a detailed layout of the course.

Student Evaluation:

Students will have the opportunity to provide feedback on this course throughout the semester as well as at the end of the semester on the University-wide course evaluations found at <https://eval.ou.edu>.

Excused absences and religious holidays:

University-approved absences and absences due to religious holidays will always be accommodated. Please contact Me if you have a conflict with an exam. The end-of-term make-up Exam is almost always the solution.

Honor Code Statement:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I assume familiarity with the honor code. Academic misconduct is an “act that improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement”. Violations of the code will be taken seriously. See <http://integrity.ou.edu>.

Title IX Resources & Reporting Requirement

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence or other violent acts, stalking, mental health concerns, or any other serious issue relating to student health/well being, the University provides a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct office at 405-325-2215 (8-5 M-F) or smo@ou.edu. Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU advocates at 405-615-0013 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Please be advised your instructors are required to report any incidents they are made aware of. Inquiries regarding OU’s non-discrimination policies may be directed to: Bobby J. Mason, University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX coordinator, at 405-325-3546 or bjm@ou.edu. For more information please consult <http://www.ou.edu/eoo.html>

Adjustments for students with DRC needs and Pregnancy/Childbirth related issues

Should you need modification or adjustments to this course or exams based on pregnancy or childbirth-related, or other issues, please contact me as well as the DRC as soon as possible. Also, see <http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html> for answers to any related questions.

The University of Oklahoma Foodbank:

Food insecurity refers to the lack of access to enough food or limited and uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food. The OU Food Pantry is located at 1113 Elm Avenue, Norman, OK 73072. Free parking is available during our operation hours. All current OU students, faculty, and staff are eligible to use the OU Food Pantry. The OU Food Pantry's Fall & Spring hours are Tuesdays & Wednesdays, 10AM-6PM. <https://ou.edu/foodpantry>