STA309
Elementary Business Statistics
Unique Numbers 04100, 04105

PROFESSOR

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TEACHING ASSISTANTS

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COURSE OBJECTIVE

Regardless of the setting business decisions are made under uncertainty. This course introduces a framework on thinking about problems involving uncertainty and concentrates on the practice of statistics as a tool for dealing with uncertainty. Upon completion of the course you should be able to think critically about data, use graphical and numerical summaries, apply standard statistical inference procedures, and draw conclusions from such analyses.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING FLAG

This course carries the Quantitative Reasoning flag. Quantitative Reasoning courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for understanding the types of quantitative arguments you will regularly encounter in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your use of quantitative skills to analyze real-world problems.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

04100 MW 11:00 - 12:30 pm	UTC 4.104 (MOD Lab on assigned dates)
04105 MW 12:30 - 2:00 pm	UTC 4.104 (MOD Lab on assigned dates)

TEXT

The Practice of Business Statistics, Using Data for Decisions, Second Edition, by Moore, McCabe, Duckworth, and Alwan, W.H. Freeman and Company, 2009.

GRADING

Homework	10%
Projects	15%
Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Final Exam	25%

The grade on one test may be replaced with your final exam grade.
Grades of 90 or above will earn an A, 80 or above will earn a B or better, etc. Plus/minus grading will be used.

WEB PAGE http://courses.utexas.edu

This course will use a password-protected class web site. Syllabi, notes, assignments, and other resources will be available within this site. Site activities will include submission of homework assignments and posting of grades. Students who do not want their names included in the electronic class roster must restrict their directory information in the Office of the Registrar, Main Building, Room 1. For information on restricting directory information see: http://www.utexas.edu/student/registrar/catalogs/gi00-01/app/appc09.html. Students who have restricted their directory information must see the professor to identify him or herself.

Login to the course website using your UT EID. You should be able to use the website on computers running Windows, Internet Explorer, Excel and the Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you have difficulty, you may be able to get help from the ACITS Help Desk (475-9400). Alternatively, you may need to work in the CBA labs.

HOMEWORK

Statistics is a cumulative subject that requires frequent practice. If one topic is confusing, the next is likely to be more so. To address this, it is necessary for you to practice statistics on a frequent basis. The homework assignments are designed to keep you current in the course. The assignments are available online on the course web page. I recommend that you work on assignments independently.

You may open an assignment (and even print it out) several times before submitting your answers. Click on the Submit button (at the bottom) when you are done.

Assignments must be completed by midnight on their due dates. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete assignments. This will allow for any unexpected difficulties (with the material, website, etc.).

Once the deadline has past, you will be able see how you did on an assignment. Click on My Grades and then the automatically generated grade for the assignment to see the correct answers. *Ignore these HW grades.* Your TA will assign grades after each assignment is due.

Working the assigned problems is not sufficient to guarantee an A in the course. Your proficiency with statistics will improve with active practice; i.e., working problems and explaining your results. The textbook has about 100 problems per chapter for additional practice. Answers to all odd numbered problems are given in the back of the textbook.

LAPTOPS

You may find it helpful to have a laptop in class to use Excel for data analysis and/or follow along on class notes. If you are multitasking during class and using your laptop for tasks unrelated to class, please sit in the last row of the classroom so that you do not distract other students.

EXAMS

Tests will be given in the MOD Lab during the times given in the course schedule. You may bring one 8.5" by 11" page (both sides) of notes to the first test, two pages to the second test, and three pages to the final exam. You may bring a calculator to the exams. You must bring a picture ID to each test and exam. The final exam will be cumulative.

There will be no make-up tests. Your final exam grade can replace one lower test grade. You must inform the professor in advance if you are going to miss a test due to observance of a religious holiday or an official university activity.

PROJECTS

There will be three projects to be completed for this class. The projects are examples of real problems from the field of finance. The projects are designed to give you practical experience analyzing real-world data that you will obtain yourself. You will apply statistical concepts that you learn in this class. Projects are due by midnight on their due dates.

COMPUTING

The practice of statistics requires a fair amount of numerical calculations. We will use Microsoft Excel and StatTools (included in Decision Tools Standard 5.5) for statistical computations and graphics. StatTools is available in McCombs computer labs or you can download it from

http://www.mccombs.utexas.edu/Tech/Computer-Services/COE.aspx

The McCombs School of Business has 2 computer labs with Dell computers: CBA 5.304/5.325(MOD Lab) and CBA 5.322(Millennium Lab). Lab hours are extensive both in the CBA labs and the SMF. You must have an ITS computer account to use the labs.

GETTING HELP

Your professor and TA are eager to help you during office hours or by appointment. As we cover the topics, if you do not have a clear understanding of one topic, please seek help immediately. The next topic will build on the previous one. If you prefer a private tutor, the UT Learning Center (phone 471-3614) in Jester A332A can arrange one for you for a reasonable charge.

SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

The McCombs School of Business has no tolerance for acts of scholastic dishonesty. The responsibilities of both students and faculty with regard to scholastic dishonesty are described in detail in the Policy Statement on Scholastic Dishonesty for the McCombs School of Business.

By teaching this course, I have agreed to observe all of the faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all of the student responsibilities described in that document. If the application of that Policy Statement to this class and its assignments is unclear in any way, it is your responsibility to ask me for clarification.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. You should refer to the Student Judicial Services website or the General Information Catalog to access the official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty as well as further elaboration on what constitutes scholastic dishonesty.

Scholastic dishonesty in this course includes copying or collaborating during an exam, discussing or divulging the contents of an exam with another student who will take the test, and use of homework solutions from another student or semester.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. This includes students with ADHD and learning disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Topic	***Textbook***	***Due Date***	***MOD Lab***
Introduction			
Describing Data Using Excel and StatTools for Statistics	1.1, 1.2		Jan 25
Scatterplots and Correlation Least Squares Regression Relations in Categorical Data	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5	HW #1 – Jan 27	
Probability Random Variables Probability Distributions	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1	HW #2 – Feb 3	Feb 8
Conditional Probability Bayes' Rule	5.4	HW #3 – Feb 10	
Normal Distribution Binomial Distribution	1.3, 5.2	HW #4 – Feb 17	
Test #1		**Feb 22, MOD Lab**	
Project #1		Feb 24	
Designing Samples and Experiments Randomness Sampling Distributions	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.4	HW #5 – March 9	March 5
Estimating with Confidence	6.1	HW #6 – March 23	
Tests of Significance	6.2	HW #7 – March 30	March 26
Test #2		**Apr 4, MOD Lab**	
Project # 2		Apr 6	
Using Significance Tests Inference as a Decision and Power	6.3, 6.4	HW # 8 – Apr 20	Apr 16
Inference for Comparisons	7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2	HW #9 – Apr 27	Apr 25
Inference for Two-Way Tables	9.1	HW #10 – May 2	
Project #3		May 4	
Final Exam		**04100 - May 11, 2-4:30pm** **04105 - May 11, 9-11:30am**	