EC151.07 Statistics for Business and Economics

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Class: (Room TBA) MWF 1:00-1:50pm
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21 Campenalla Way
Office Hour: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is focused on probability, random variables, sampling distributions, estimation of parameters, tests of hypotheses, regression and forecasting.

TEXTBOOK

This is one of classical introductory statistics textbooks. It is also used in other EC151 sections. We will follow the textbook closely, and work out the some of the exercises in the book in the class. Hence, make sure that you have textbook when you come to the class.

GRADING
Classwork 25%
Homework 25%
Quiz 25%
Exam 25%

OBJECTIVE
As an introductory course, the main objective is to learn basic statistics definitions and concepts, which builds the foundation for either advanced courses. Hence, in order to have a firm understanding of materials, classworks, homeworks and quizzes are devices to make sure you achieve the target. Classworks are usually assigned during the class after major concepts have been covered, while homeworks would be dispatched through Blackboard vista after we have gone through a topic. Topical quiz will follow after homework has been submitted. A cumulative final exam would be conducted at the end of the course. Classwork would be
collected and graded at the end of the courses, so make sure that you keep a good record of the working of your classwork.

Though memorizing formulas are important but as Internet makes information and knowledge so accessible, it is not crucial to memorize equations (as you will learn more formally in advanced classes) compared to applying them correctly (thanks to easy statistical softwares), and therefore all assessments are open-book.

**A.CADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Working together on quizzes/exams is a violation of academic integrity. Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Section of the Boston College Catalog (35-36) or online at

[http://www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity)

**LEARNING SERVICES**

If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Kathy Duggan (Kathleen.duggan@bc.edu) Associate Director, Academic Support Services, the Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities and ADHD) or Suzy Conway (suzy.conway@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for Students with Disabilities (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations.

**MAKE-UP POLICIES**

If you know you will miss classwork/quiz, you are allowed to skip it (weight would be shifted accordingly) if you have presented formal proof IN ADVANCE. (same for students athletes)

For the exam, you can attend the ONLY one make-up exam if you have a signed letter from the dean explaining the circumstances and notify me AHEAD OF TIME.
Tentative Schedule

Topic One: Overview
1. Overview
   History of Statistics and Probability
   Scope and Methodology
2. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics
   Descriptive: Chart, summary statistics, probability, distribution
   Inferential: estimation, regression analysis, prediction
3. Sample, Data and Measurement
   Sample and Population: Data collection
   Data type: nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio
4. Use and Misuse of Statistics
   Suggested Readings: How to lie with statistics
5. Statistics software
   Spreadsheets, Stata, SPSS

Topic Two: Descriptive Statistics
1. Numerical representation
   Central Tendency: Mean (weighted mean), Median, Mode
   Dispersion: Range, inter-quartile range, variance, standard deviation (coefficient of variation)
   Shape: Skewness, Kurtosis
2. Visual representation
   Tables: Grouped data, frequency distribution, contingency table
   Graphs: Stem-and-leave graph, box-plot, Histogram, scatter plot, radar chart

Topic Three: Probability Theory
1. Definition
   Frequentist versus Bayesian
2. Basic Operations
   Axioms, union, intersection, inclusion-exclusion principle
3. Conditional probability
   Independence, mutually exclusive, Bayes rule
TOPIC FOUR: RANDOM VARIABLE AND DISTRIBUTIONS
1. Random Variable
   definition, continuous versus discrete, expectation and variance, Probability mass/density function, Cumulative probability function
2. Discrete distribution
   Bernoulli, Biomial, Possion, uniform
3. Continuous distribution
   Uniform, Normal, Chi-square, student’s t, F-distribution

TOPIC FIVE: ESTIMATION THEORY
1. Estimator
   unbiasedness, consistency, efficiency
2. Sampling Distribution
   law of large number, central limit theorem
3. Estimation
   point estimate, interval estimate

TOPIC SIX: HYPOTHESIS TESTING
1. Statistical reasoning
   null/alternative hypothesis, significance level, p-value, type I/type II error, power
2. Testing methods
   Fischer’s exact test, Z-test, student’s t-test, Chi-square test, F-test

TOPIC SEVEN: ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE AND REGRESSIONAL ANALYSIS
1. Multivariate Statistics
   Joint Statistics, correlation, covariance
2. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
   Assumptions, sum of squares and F-test
3. Regressional Analysis
   Method of Least square, linear regression, significance of coefficients

TOPIC EIGHT: FORECASTING THEORY AND OTHER TOPICS (If time permits)
1. Prediction
   Time Series models: ARMA models, applications in finance
2. Application
   Experimental economics, applied applications