BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Economics

Rachida Ouysse   EC 151 Statistics for
Carney 33 A   Business and Economics
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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00, or by appointment.
Required text: Statistics for Business and Economics, Anderson, Sweeney & Williams, 7th Ed.

This is an introductory course in statistics. The primary goal is to learn how to draw reasonable inferences about a population on the basis of a sample drawn from that population. The course has four sections:

1) Descriptive statistics
2) Probability
3) Statistical inference
 - estimation
 - hypothesis testing
4) Regression analysis

The brief section on descriptive statistics will be a review for some of you. Probability theory is interesting and necessary for statistical inference. We will end with a brief introduction to regression analysis, which is the primary statistical tool used by economists and many other social scientists, and is a logical and very valuable sequel to this statistics course.

Course Requirements:

The course meets three times per weak. There will be two in-class exams (25% each), a comprehensive final exam (30%) and several in class quizzes (15%). Finally, 5% of the grade is for class participation.
Quizzes:
There will be a 20 minutes quiz every two weeks (on Friday) at the beginning of the class.
There will be **NO make up quizzes**, but at the end I will drop the quiz with the lowest grade (that's your free shot), quizzes are open book and notes.
At the end of each chapter, I will hand in a series of practice problems to help you follow and understand the material. They won't be graded.

Attendance:
It is important to note that we will be covering a fair amount of material in limited amount of time. Statistics is a subject that is best learned at the point of a pencil and a little bit at a time. I would highly advise you to make class although I will not keep track of attendance.

Course Format and Expectations:

Although this course has a lecture format, I urge students to answer and raise questions in class.
Feel free to stop me at any point to ensure that you understand the material before we move on. The only dumb questions are those not asked. You and your fellow students will profit if you do, and the classes will be much interesting.
The course has no prerequisites. I will follow closely the textbook.
You are held responsible for all readings, assignments and announcements made in class.

The first mid-term exam will be on **February 23^d** and will cover the first two sections of the course. The second mid-term exam will be on **March 30th** and will cover the third section of the course. The final exam is cumulative, covering all the material you saw during the course. **All exams will be closed book and closed notes exams.**
Absolutely no make up exams will be given to accommodate your schedule. If you miss one exam, I will need a letter from your Dean to approve your absence.
Finally, be aware that cheating on any exam will result in an automatic failing grade on the exam in question.