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**Boston College**
**Department of Economics**

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**Statistics for Business and Economics**

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This is an introductory course in classical statistics. The primary goal of this course is to make you familiar with the basics of probability and sampling theory. The course has four sections:

1.  Descriptive Statistics
2.  Probability Theory
3.  Statistical Inference Estimation
    -   Estimation
    -   Hypothesis Testing
4.  Regression Analysis

At the end of the course you will not be a theoretical statistician, but you will be able to understand when and how to apply statistical tools to data sets of interest for you.

<u>Required Text</u>: Contemporary Business Statistics, Anderson, Sweeney & Williams, 7th ed. (South-Western, Thomson Learning)

<u>Office Hours</u>: T-Th 4:30-5:30. If you cannot meet me at any of these times, please make an appointment. The ADC (Academic Development Center) in O'Neill also has tutors available for you to consult.

<u>Course Requirements</u>: four quizzes (5% each), one mid-term exam (30%), final exam (50%).

<u>Course Organization and Expectations</u>: the class meets two times a week (TTh 3:00-4:30) in Campion 010. The course will closely follow the text. There are no formal prerequisites for this course. I will present in class the main elements of the mathematical techniques required.

You are held responsible for all readings, assignments and announcements made in class. Eight problem sets will be given where you are required to solve theoretical and empirical exercises. Problem sets will not be graded but will play an important role for borderline cases. I advise you to use EXCEL, available at the O'Neill computer center. You are strongly encouraged to work on problem sets in teams. I will provide answers to all problem sets.

The mid-term exam will be on March 22 and will cover the first two sections of the course. The final exam is comprehensive, covering all the material you saw during the course. All exams will be closed book and close note exams. However, I will provide any statistical tables you may require and allow you to bring in one 8.5'' x 11'' formula sheet and calculator.

No make up exams will be given. Should you miss an exam, I will need a letter from your Dean saying that it was an approved absence.

If school happens to be canceled on the day of the scheduled exam, the exam will be given on the next class meeting.

Class attendance is important. I strongly advise you not to cut classes and to ask questions.

Please, be aware that cheating on any exam will result in an automatic failing grade on the exam in question.

<u>Grading Procedure</u>

| A = 92 or above | B- = 78-75 | D+ = 61-58 |
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| A- = 91-88 | C+ = 74-71 | D = 57-53 |
| B+ = 87-84 | C = 70-66 | D- = 52-49 |
| B = 83-79 | C- = 65-62 | F = under 49 |