BOSTON COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

EC 151   Niloufer Sohrabji
Spring 1998   Carney 33A, x8703
T Th 9:00 - 10:15   Office Hours: T Th 10:30 - 12:00

STATISTICS

This is an introductory course in statistics. The primary goal is to introduce you to important statistical concepts and their applications. A grasp of the language of statistics is an essential part of understanding the material. The final objective is to use what you have learned to be able to draw inferences about a population on the basis of a sample drawn from that population. The course has three sections.

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

Textbook: McClave, Benson and Sincich   Statistics for business and economics

This text is required and should be purchased.

Course Requirements:

The course meets twice a week for lectures. There will be two in-class midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam. All exams are open book and notes.
In addition there will be four computer exercises using Excel. The purpose of these exercises is to get you familiar with Excel and save you from tedious calculations. You may work on these exercises in groups.
There will be a short quiz every Thursday. The lowest quiz grade may be dropped. The purpose of frequent quizzes is to get you comfortable with the material at a regular pace, thereby relieving some of the burden on exams. Again quizzes are open book.
Problems will be assigned at every class and will be discussed in the next class. Assigned problems will not be graded but will be a source of ideas for quizzes and exams. This course is hierarchical, with each section dependent on the prior ones. Therefore, it is a bad idea to fall behind in statistics. Attendance is not taken in class, but is recommended.

Grading Policy:

Quizzes	20%	
Computer exercises	10%	
Exam I (Feb. 12th)		15%
Exam II (Mar. 26th)	20%	
Final Exam	35%	

There will be no make-up exams or quizzes, so pay close attention to the dates on the syllabus. Computer exercises handed in late will be marked down.

Academic Integrity: I expect all students to do only their own work on quizzes and exams. Joint work on problem exercises is encouraged.