EC 151 08   Niloufer Sohrabji
Spring 1999   Carney Hall 33 A, x 2-8703
T Th 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.   Office Hours: T & Th 10:30 - 11:45
                                                                                    e-mail: sohrabjn@bc.edu

STATISTICS

        This is an introductory course in statistics. The primary goal of this course is
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 based on a
sample drawn from that population. The course is divided into three sections:

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

        The first section of descriptive statistics may be a review for some of you and will
cover measures of tendency and dispersion, as well as graphical descriptions of data.
        Probability will be covered in greater detail. It will include computation of
probability of simple and complex events. This will be followed by a discussion of some
of the more important probability distributions such as Binomial, Normal, etc.
        The first two sections form the basis for the final topic of statistical inference i.e.
estimation and testing of hypothesis. This includes computing and interpreting reasonable
estimates of important unknowns. In addition, we will also test hypotheses regarding these
unknowns.

Textbook: McClave, Benson and Sincich Statistics for business & economics
                      This text is required and should be purchased.

Course Requirements:

        The course meets twice a week for lectures. There will be 2 in-class midterm
exams and a comprehensive final exam. All exams are open book and notes.
        In addition, there will be computer exercises using Excel. The purpose of these
exercises is to get you familiar with Excel as well as facilitate your understanding of
statistics. 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 from the book 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. Although there will frequently be an overlap between these problems and
computer exercises, it should be clear that they are both important and not substitutes for
each other.
        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. 25th)	15%
Exam II (April 8th)	20%
Final Exam	35%

There will be no make-up exams or quizzes, so please keep a note of the dates. Computer exercises handed in late (dates to be announced in class) 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.