

BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Economics

EC 151.02
Statistics
Spring 2003
Fulton 115 MWF 11

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Syllabus

Text: Levine, Krehbiel, Berenson :Business Statistics: A First Course, Prentice Hall, Third Edition.

Office Hours: Mon and Wed: 10-11 am.

If you can not meet me at those times please make an appointment to meet me.

Grading: 2 midterm exams (% 20 each), dates will be assigned in class
Final exam (% 45), (date and time to be announced)
7 problem sets (%12)
Attendance and class participation (%3)

Course Organization and Expectations:

EC 151 is an introduction course in probability and statistics. The primary goal of this class is to make you familiar with the basics of probability and sampling theory which are widely used in areas like economics, finance, biology, sociology, etc.

This course requires some knowledge of algebra, calculus and set operations. Since, the class is built on mathematical knowledge each section of the course depends on the previous one. So, I expect you to come to every class, to read the text carefully, to work through the problem sets and to participate in the class.

I take “Academic Honesty” very seriously so be sure you are familiar with the sections on “Academic Honesty” in the Undergraduate Catalog (p. 35).

Grading Policy:

There are two main objectives of this course:

- 1) Provide necessary background for advanced study in statistics.
- 2) Provide the statistical methods that can be applied to analyze real life data.

Midterm and Final:

The midterms and final questions will be prepared to measure whether the objectives above are achieved or not. I am aware that one can do badly on one exam even if he/she knows the material. So, if you do poorly on one mid-term but consistently well on the other one, the final and the problem sets, the one poor exam will be discounted (but not completely ignored). Also, your attendance and class participation will be taken into consideration.

I am not giving make-up exams. If you miss an exam for a good reason, let me know and the percentage of that exam will be distributed on the other exams. But if you do not have a valid excuse you will get a zero from that exam.

Problem Sets:

There will be 6 problem sets. Each problem set worth 2% of your final grade. Some problems will be applications of the statistical methods to real life data. **No make-up problem sets.** But, at the end I will drop the problem set with the lowest grade.

Working together on the problem sets is encouraged, but the problem set you are handing in should be written by your own.

Attendance and Class Participation:

I will take attendance in class since I believe that statistics is a course that is very hard to understand just reading the book. You are allowed to miss two classes without a valid excuse. If you miss more than two classes, one point will be deducted. So, if you miss more than 5 classes you will get a zero for your attendance and class participation grade.

Finally, Statistics is a subject that can be applied to many problems in many areas, so I strongly recommend you to bring real world problems and ask questions during the class (which will affect your class participation grade). Feel free to stop me at any time to ensure that you understand the material before we move on. I believe that asking a question is the fundamental part of doing science and learning.

If you feel completely lost in the class please meet me and we can discuss about some additional material that you might find useful to understand the subject.

Topics:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
1	Definitions, Data and Presenting Data	1,2
2	Descriptive Statistics, Probability	3,4
3	Probability (Continued)	4
4	Discrete Probability Distributions	5
5	Normal Probability Distribution	5
6	Sampling Dist., Interval Estimation	6
7	Interval Est., Intro. To Hypothesis Tests	6,7
8	Intro. To Hypothesis Tests (continued)	7
9	Hypothesis Tests for Data from Two or More samples	8
10	Simple Linear Regression	10
11	Simple Linear Regression	11
12	Multiple Regression	12
13	Examples of Regression Analysis (If time permits.)	