

Boston College
Department of Economics

Course Outline for EC151.04 and EC151.05 Statistics

Instructor: Sisi Zhang
Office Hour: Friday 1:30-3:30pm
Classroom: Carney Hall 302
Time: EC151.04 MWF 11
EC151.05 MWF 12

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Textbook: Anderson, D.R., Sweeney, D.J. and Williams, T.A. (2009) Essentials of Statistics for Business and Economics 5th Edition.

Course Objective: This course offers an introduction to the field of statistics and is intended to give you some basic concepts in statistics and teach you some useful statistical methods that may serve as a basis for further studies or for statistical thinking in business or management.

Course Requirements: The course meets for **three lectures** per week. The lectures will cover concepts, formulas, rules and procedures. Examples and scenarios will be given to help you understand where they may fit in and how they can be applied. Try to understand rather than memorize them.

Problems sets will be assigned regularly and they are **due one week later** in class. Late submission is not accepted. You are allowed to work in a group, but each member of a group should submit a separate answer. The problem sets will be inspected and put on record but not graded. The solutions to problem sets will be handed out to you.

There will be **two mid-terms and one final**. The problem sets will give you some ideas on what the mid terms and final will look like. In particular, I would like to emphasize that a lot of quality practice for this course is very important, and the problem sets provide valuable chances for you to apply what you learn in class. However, I do not encourage you to memorize any solution. All that matters is an in-depth understanding of the concepts, formulas, rules and procedures. Bear in mind that familiarity with these problem sets is a necessary but not sufficient condition for good grades in exams. Only simple (non-graphing) calculators are allowed for exams. The use of graphing calculators, cell phones, PDAs, all types of iPods and other similar electronic devices are strictly NOT permitted during exams.

All exams will be **close book and notes**. There will be **no make-up** and a zero grade will be assigned if you miss one. Exceptions can only be made on the basis of verifiable medical reasons or with a letter from the dean directed to me **before** the exam.

Make sure you are familiar with the academic integrity policy which can be found at www.bc.edu/integrity. Cheating on exam will not be excused in any case. Once found, you automatically fail this course.

Grading Policy:

Midterm 1: 30%

Midterm 2: 30%

Non-Cumulative Final Exam: 40%

Problem sets: optional but strongly recommended, used as evidence for up to one notch on your final grade (B- to B, C to C+, etc.)

Tentative Schedule for Topics and Exams:

Date	Topics	Text Chapter
Jan 14	Overview	Chapter 1
Jan 16, 21, 23, 26, 28	Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 2,3
Jan 30, Feb 2, 4, 6	Probability Theory, Bayes' Theorem	Chapter 4
Feb 9, 11, 13	Discrete Probability Distribution	Chapter 5
Feb 16	Review Session	
Feb 18	Midterm I	
Feb 20, 23, 25, 27	Continuous Probability Distribution	Chapter 6
Mar 9, 11, 13, 16	Sampling and Sampling Distribution	Chapter 7
Mar 18, 20, 23, 25	Interval Estimation	Chapter 8
Mar 27	Review Session	
Mar 30	Midterm II	
Apr 1, 3, 6, 8	Hypothesis testing	Chapter 9
Apr 15, 17, 22	Analysis of Variance	Chapter 10
Apr 22, 24, 27	Simple Linear Regression	Chapter 12
Apr 29	Review Session	
Final Exam for EC151.04	Fri May 8, 12:30pm	
Final Exam for EC151.05	Fri May 8, 9:00am	

Note: The lecture schedule is subject to changes but all exams will take place as scheduled. If you have any problem with the exam schedule, please let me know immediately after the first class.