

Math 301

Mathematical Consulting
Spring 2009

Who: Jim Bentley Office: 227 AHN (ext. 8621)
When: TTh 9:30-10:50
Where: AHN 215
Text: None required, but many will be used.

Math 301, *Mathematical Consulting*, is an interdisciplinary consulting laboratory experience for undergraduates. The laboratory is modeled along the lines of graduate consulting laboratories found in most graduate statistics curricula. Students with prerequisites of at least one statistics course or instructor permission will be available to the campus community at large for statistical consulting purposes.

Within the campus, faculty, staff, and administration present problems of academic interest or operational need to the consulting lab; off campus, non-commercial interests and agencies such as schools, social and environmental groups and the police are also sources of interesting projects.

Students form groups to take on projects appropriate to their interest and expertise supported by faculty who also provide training as required. To encourage the participation of individuals who may already have expressed cross-disciplinary interests, and carry a corresponding load, the class may be taken for varying amounts of credit.

Understanding that you will possess different backgrounds, and in support of the various projects that will be undertaken, the first part of this semester will be spent in review of some fundamental topics in statistics. Recognizing that the answers to some of the questions that will be posed will require additional techniques, we will also cover some advanced techniques (*e.g.* trellised graphics, ordinal logistic regression, microarray analysis, *etc.*). Your understanding of these topics will be determined through in-class activities and appropriate use within your projects.

A large part of this course will involve joint discussions of team projects. Inter-group feedback is extremely valuable, so attendance is mandatory unless pressing circumstances mandate otherwise. Please contact me in advance should you be unable to attend a class. *More than three unexcused absences may subject you to disenrollment from the course.*

The last day to drop or change your grade status is Feb. 6. Spring Break is Feb. 21–Mar. 1. The last day of classes is Apr. 13.

To reduce distractions and help create a better learning and work environment please turn your cell phone(s) off before entering the classroom. Should you feel that you must make or respond to a call or text message during class, please leave the room and do not return.

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 12:00–1:00 and TTh 11:00–12:00. These are times when I will be in, or near (*e.g.* in the student study area or computer lab), my office. I am also available by appointment. I'll be around at other times, so if my door is open and nobody else is getting help, turn your cell phone off and come on in.