

Math 111

Elementary Statistics and Probability with Applications
Spring 2010

Who: Jim Bentley Office: 227 AHN (ext. 8621)
When: 11:00-12:20 MWF
Where: LIB 116
Text: David Moore, *The Basic Practice of Statistics*, 4th Ed.

GOALS: Math 111, *Elementary Statistics and Probability with Applications*, is an introduction to statistical thinking. The emphasis of the course is on general principles involved in the daily use of statistics and on interpretation rather than rigorous mathematical theory. Whenever possible we will use real data. Occasionally we will have to resort to realistic data—real situation but fake data—or simulated data. Again, the emphasis is on a real-world understanding, and thus dealing with real data is helpful.

The course will also help you gain experience using a computer in a problem solving setting. Excel and the statistics packages NCSS, R, and SPSS will be available in Jones. Limited access to SAS is also available in Jones. A Windows based trial version of NCSS can be downloaded for free from <http://www.ncss.com> and a freeware version of R can be found at www.r-project.org. You are free to use any statistical package that you can find. However, as we will see with Excel, many packages (particularly free ones) give erroneous results, so choose wisely.

PROPOSED TOPICS:

- Looking at Distributions
 1. Graphical descriptions
 2. Numerical descriptions
 3. Normal distributions
- Producing Data
 1. Sampling, randomization and design
 2. Experiments and design
- Looking at Data
 1. Scatterplots
 2. Correlation

3. Least-squares regression
 4. Interpretation of correlation and regression
 5. Relations in categorical data
- Probability and Sampling Distributions
 1. Randomness and variability
 2. Probability models
 3. Sampling Distributions
 - Inference
 1. Estimation and confidence
 2. Significance tests
 3. Using significance tests
 4. Error and power

The above topics are fundamental to any statistical analysis—descriptive or inferential. However, this course will no more make you a statistician than a course in human anatomy will make you a brain surgeon. It is hoped that at its conclusion you will be better prepared to evaluate articles which appear in newspapers, magazines, and in journals from your own discipline as well as to converse with statisticians during your research.

GRADING:

- 30% Homework, mini-projects, *etc.*: Work will not be accepted for credit once grading of the assignment has begun. Since answers for some of the problems are given in the back of the book, to gain credit you must support your answers by showing evidence of your thought process—your statistical reasoning. Use one side of the page and write legibly (in pencil unless you are perfect and never need to erase). Please order your answers sequentially and place them in a single column. When submitting multiple pages, please staple the pages together in their proper order. In short, put yourself in the grader's place and think about how you can make their life easier.

Much of what we will do in this class will take more time than is available during an exam. Since your time is essentially “unlimited” outside of the classroom (yes, I know you have other classes), homework problems are a perfect place to see what you can do. Homework is thus an important part of the learning experience in this course. Please feel free to work together, but be sure to turn in your own version of the solution. If you choose to get help from others (including faculty), be sure that you fully understand whatever information they have given you. If you choose not to do the homework, or receive failing grades for those assignments you do turn in, the highest overall course score you can achieve is a 70% (or a C−). Historically, those individuals who did not earn a passing grade on their homework also earned low scores on their exams and thus failed the course. Please take the homework assignments seriously. . . I will.

- 37.5% Three midterms (Tentatively Fri. Feb. 5, Fri. Feb. 26, and Mon. Mar. 29): Make up exams will only be given if you let the instructor know *in advance* that you will not be able to make the scheduled test. You must possess a reasonable excuse for your absence (*e.g.* death—your own.)
- 25% Final (Sat. Apr. 24, 9:00 AM): The final will be 50% cumulative and 50% material from the last quarter of the class.
- 7.5% Group project: Topics to be chosen by individual groups. Each group will provide both a paper and a presentation (approximately 15 minutes) at a randomly selected time during the last two days of class. Your papers will be due on the first day of presentations. You will be expected to provide evaluations of the other groups and the other members of your group.

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 8:30–9:30 and 12:20–1:00, TTh by appointment. These are times when I will be in, or near (*e.g.* in the student study area or computer lab), my office. 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.

ATTENDANCE: You are encouraged to attend all class sessions. Statistics, like many sciences, is cumulative in nature. Missing material affects your ability to understand later topics. If you must miss a class, be sure to get notes from a classmate. This course makes use of in-class activities. If you are not attending class you will not be able to participate in the learning experiences they provide and your absence will have an adverse effect on the experiences of your classmates. In particular, lack of attendance does not support the cooperative nature of the group projects. Should outside circumstances make it difficult for you to continue your work in the class, please see me immediately.

The last day to drop or change your grade status is Feb. 19. Spring Break is Feb. 27–Mar. 7. The last day of classes is Apr. 19.

CELL PHONE: Out of consideration for your classmates, please turn your cell phone off before entering our classroom. You may not be able to hear the vibration when your phone rings or the clicking as you send text messages, but many of your classmates and I can. By distracting me you are detracting from the quality of the experience that I can provide for everyone else in the room.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on academic honesty (see the catalog). You are encouraged, and sometimes required, to work together. However, it is expected that the work you turn in on individual assignments and exams will be yours alone. If there is evidence that you have copied any part of your work, you will be subject to University disciplinary action for plagiarism (see the catalog).