Elements of Statistics

Math 106

Spring 2009

Professor Drew Kerkhoff
Office 301 Higley Hall
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Office Hours Monday 1:00 – 2:00
Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00
Thursday 9:00 - 10:00
Also by appointment; please don’t hesitate to ask for help.

Course Goals
Develop statistical thinking and quantitative reasoning skills
Become familiar with statistical methods and software
Apply statistical perspectives to everyday and more technical problems

Required Text

Course Outline and Calendar (subject to change and revision)

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<th>Topics / Assignments</th>
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<td>2/16 – 2/20</td>
<td>Random variables, expectation, and estimation</td>
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<td>Regression inference</td>
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<td>5/10</td>
<td>Final Exam: 5/10 (Ch. 1 – 10)</td>
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Statistical Package
MINITAB is available on campus computers and will be used throughout the course. While we will utilize MINITAB in nearly every class, I will assume you have no prior experience with statistical software.

Data sets and MINITAB worksheets will be placed in P:\Data\Math\STATS. Proper maintenance of computer accounts, files, etc. is your responsibility. I recommend that you back up your data sets and MINITAB worksheets on a regular basis.

Grades
Your course grade will be based on your overall percentage. The categories used to determine your overall percentage are listed below with their respective weights.

- Participation (5%)
- Homework, Quizzes, and Class Exercises (25%)
- Reports (20%)
- Exam 1 (15%)
- Exam 2 (15%)
- Final Exam (20%)

Assignments and course announcements will be sent to you via e-mail or posted on the Moodle page. Stay up to date.

Participation
Class attendance is mandatory. Please contact me as soon as you know you will miss a class meeting, preferably well in advance. Some class work (short responses and worked problems) will be collected as an assessment tool, and will generally be checked for participation. More than two unexcused absences will strongly impact your participation grade. Note that in the end, lack of participation can become the loss of half a letter grade in the course. Furthermore, in class work missed due to unexcused absences may not be made up.

If you are an athlete or a member of another organization that travels, it is your responsibility (not your coach’s or advisor’s) to make arrangements with me concerning missed classes in advance, and by January 23 at the latest. Failure to do so will result in unexcused absences. Please contact me as soon as you know your travel schedule.

Homework, Quizzes and Class Exercises
Because this is a course in statistical problem solving, practice is critical to performing well on the exams. Quizzes (which may be given unannounced) and both in-class and take-home exercises will be used both to assess progress and provide practice and feedback. Homework problems will be assigned
approximately weekly. In-class exercises missed due to unexcused absences cannot be made up. Late homework will be reduced by half a grade, i.e., 5%, per day.

All work turned in must meet the following guidelines:

- It should be legible, organized and neat, with your name, the problem numbers, any graphical and statistical output, and the final solutions clearly marked.
- Multipage assignments must be paginated and stapled.
- Written explanations, descriptions, inferences, and conclusions must be written in complete sentences.

Work that does not meet these standards will be handed back for revision without a grade, and will thus be considered late.

Most of the data sets from the textbook are available on P:\Data\MATH\Peck-Devore-Data\.

**Reports**

At least two short written assignments (2-4 pages) will be given during the semester. These assignments are to assess your ability to interpret and communicate statistical findings, whether by working and summarizing problems or critiquing published research. Reports will be evaluated both for statistical content (i.e., appropriate test selection and relevant summaries and graphics) and the quality of the writing (i.e., clarity, grammar, spelling).

**Exams**

Exam 1 – Wednesday, February 11
Exam 2 – Wednesday, March 25
Final Exam (Optional and Comprehensive) – May 5, 8:30 - 11:30 am

**Late Policy**

Assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the class period on the assigned due date. Late assignments will lose ½ grade (5%) per day. If for any reason you cannot turn in your paper on the assigned date, you must contact me before class. If you are unable to visit me in person, you can leave a message via voicemail (5734) or e-mail (kerkhoffa@kenyon.edu).

**Academic Honesty**

Acquaint yourself with Kenyon’s policy on academic honesty, printed in the Student Handbook. I encourage you to discuss the concepts, readings, and problem solving techniques presented in class with other students, and we will frequently work in pairs or small groups. However, all homework problems, labs, and reports must be written up and turned in independently. For paired or small group exercises, all forms of collaboration and sharing of information must be explicitly acknowledged. Adherence to standards of
academic honesty is the responsibility of the student. If you have any questions or are unsure of appropriate conduct, please contact me.

**Accommodating Disabilities**
If you feel that you may have need for some type of accommodation(s) in order to participate fully in this class or to take exams, please feel free to discuss your concerns with me in private. Also identify yourself to Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services at PBX 5453 or via e-mail at salvae@kenyon.edu. All information is confidential.

**Statistics Clinic and Other Course Resources**
Tutors will likely be available during several evenings on a weekly basis. I will share exact hours when I get them. They will help you with technical software questions or general questions about the course material, but they will not solve your homework problems.