

STAT 401: Experimental Methods

Section 003

Fall 2009

Class:	MF: 2:30 – 3:20 PM, 104 Thomas Bldg.; W: 2:30 – 3:20 PM, 214 Boucke Bldg.		
Instructor:	Trent Gaugler	TA:	Lucia Tabacu
Office	323C Thomas	Office	316 Thomas
Office Hours	WF 12:30 – 2:15	Office Hours	M 12:15-1:15, W 4-5, R 9-11
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Course Material:

Textbook: *Statistics 401: An Introduction to Statistics for Engineers and Scientists*, FA09 Ed., by Michael G. Akritas

Calculator: scientific calculator

PLEASE BRING YOUR BOOK AND CALCULATOR TO CLASS EVERYDAY!

Course Objective:

To familiarize students with the basic concepts and ideas of statistics and probability. To provide training in the use of statistical methods and graphics for the analysis and presentation of data encountered in engineering and other disciplines.

Web Page:

Class announcements and materials will be regularly posted on ANGEL, so it is recommended that you check the site frequently. Such materials as lecture notes, homework and lab assignments, homework and exam solutions, etc. will be posted.

Class Notes:

I will provide you with typed notes (handed out and posted on ANGEL), which will hopefully allow you to think about the material as we discuss it instead of writing down notes at a furious pace. The typed notes that I provide **will not be complete**. There will be pieces missing that you will need to add from our class discussion. If you miss class (with or without a legitimate excuse), it is your responsibility to find a classmate and copy the notes that you missed.

Homework:

Application of the ideas and concepts to real data is the focus of the course. Thus, homework will be an integral part of the class. The homework for a particular chapter will be assigned when we BEGIN discussing that chapter. In most cases, the homework for a particular chapter will be due **at the beginning of the class period following the end of our discussion of that chapter**.

Homework will be graded based on **completeness and accuracy (mostly for accuracy)**. Some points will be awarded just for having completed (correct or not) the homework. Then, several parts of the assignment will be graded for accuracy. **Show all work!** After the first few weeks of the course, we will start using Minitab to complete lab activities, which will be graded as homework. We will either meet in a computer lab or we will go through the activity together in class.

Quizzes:

I reserve the right to give short (announced or unannounced) quizzes throughout the semester on recent material. These quizzes will be worth 10% of the grade **AT MOST**. Often, these will be extra credit attendance checks.

Exams and Final:

There will be two exams, the first covering Chapters 1-5 (worth 15%) and another covering Chapters 6, 8 and 9 (worth 10%). The final exam will cover topics from a special topic on Regression and Chapter 10 (time permitting) but will also include some questions from the material on the first two exams.

Grading Appeals:

From the day that any graded material is returned to you, you have two class periods to bring any errors in grading to my attention. After that, no grade adjustment will be made. So please review any graded materials upon receiving them. Also, note that I reserve the right to adjust final grades based on overall effort.

Evaluation:

Assessment	Percent
Exams (2)	25%
Final	25%
Homework	50%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

93%	A
90%	A -
87%	B +
83%	B
80%	B -
77%	C +
70%	C
60%	D
Below 60%	F

Makeup Policy:

- Because I will usually drop 1-2 assignments, homework will not be accepted after the day it is due unless you make other arrangements with me BEFORE the due date. Homework is due at the beginning of class, and will be considered late after that (i.e., do not use class time to finish your assignment). If your homework is late, you will automatically lose at least half of the points.
- If you must miss an exam, see me BEFORE the date of the exam in order to set up a conflict exam time. Otherwise you will receive a zero for the missed exam.
- If you are ill on a day that a HW is due or an exam is scheduled, make sure you let me know via email THAT DAY. If you do not have access to email, you can call my office.

Academic Integrity:

All Penn State and Eberly College of Science policies regarding academic integrity apply to this course. See <http://www.science.psu.edu/academic/Integrity/index.html> for details.

Cheating is unacceptable. If the TA or I suspect you of cheating, you will receive a zero on that assignment, quiz or test.