

The University of Iowa
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

ACTS:1000 First-Year Seminar - Fall 2017
Introductory Seminar Actuarial Science

2:00 - 2:50 pm Thursdays, E215 CB

▷ **General Information**

- *Instructor:* Michelle Larson, 221 SH, 335-0814, michelle-larson@uiowa.edu
Office Hours: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Thursdays and by appointment
(also 9:30-11:00am, 3:30-4:30pm Mondays)
- *DEO:* Joseph Lang, 241 SH, 335-0712
- *Course Description:* This course is designed to expose students to the variety of work actuaries do. Students will investigate insurance, finance, health care, ethics, and computing. Information about U.S. actuarial organizations, program requirements, career paths, and tips for success will also be included.
- *Professional Society Web Sites:*
Society of Actuaries (SOA): <https://www.soa.org>
Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS): <https://www.casact.org>
- *Textbook:* There are no required materials for this course
- *ICON/Web:* This course will use ICON powered by Canvas (<http://icon.uiowa.edu>) for announcements and other communications.

▷ **Course Topics**

- We will discuss many of the following (time and interest of students permitting): why actuarial science, financial and insurance vocabulary, resumes, financial instruments, path to actuarial certification (exams and development activities), computer packages (Excel, R), budgeting, what actuaries do, interview skills.

▷ **Grading**

- Student grades will be based on in-class participation, reports and computer projects. Reports will be investigative in nature; students will submit a written summary and share information with their classmates. Computer projects will be used to investigate the effect of different structural features of financial instruments. There are no exams.
- This course will not use +/– grading system.
- Grade cutoffs will be no higher than the usual 90 (A), 80 (B), 70 (C), 60 (D) breakdown.
- Bonus points may be given at any time and may be applied to any part of your grade.

▷ **Extra Help**

- Students are encouraged to seek help from their professor, peers, and/or advisor.

▷ **Notes**

- Do not miss class. You need to attend every day to succeed in this class.
- Please refrain from eating, using your phone, wearing earbuds, and using other electronic devices during class.
- Students are encouraged to work together.
- If you are absent from class, please contact the instructor as early as possible to discuss alternative activities.

▷ *The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Policy and Procedures*

- *Administrative Home:* The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.
- *Electronic Communication:* University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11, <http://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/human-resources/professional-ethics-and-academic-responsibility#15.2>).
- *Accommodations for Disabilities:* The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which includes but is not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student, instructor, and SDS. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for information.
- *Nondiscrimination in the Classroom:* The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, diversity@uiowa.edu or visit <http://diversity.uiowa.edu>.
- *Academic Honesty:* All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty (<http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>): "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge (<http://fye.uiowa.edu/youre-here/iowa-challenge>). I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook, <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).
- *CLAS Final Examination Policies:* The date and time of every final examination is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. **No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes.** All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of the final exam.
- *Making a Suggestion or a Complaint:* Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook, <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).
- *Understanding Sexual Harassment:* Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Office of the Sexual Misconduct Response Coordinator (<http://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.
- *Reacting Safely to Severe Weather:* In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website (<http://police.uiowa.edu/emergency-communications>).