STAT 1020: Elementary Statistics and Inference.  Fall 2019

Instructor:  Alex Liebrecht

Office Hours:  Liebrecht:  TR 11:30 – 12:50 p.m. in 213 SH
              TA:  W 4:50 – 5:50 p.m. and 6:20 – 8:20 p.m. in 267 SH

Email:  alexander-liebrecht@uiowa.edu

Department Information:  Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, 241 SH.  Phone 335-2082

Department Executive Officer:  Dr. Kung Sik-Chan, 241 SH. Phone 335-0712.
                              E-mail: kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu

Class Meeting:  MWF 11:30 – 12:20 PM in C20 PC


Course Website:  Course materials such as syllabus, lecture notes, homework assignments, practice problems, supplementary materials, grades, etc. will be posted on ICON.

Calculators:  Calculators that allow for symbolic manipulation such as the TI-89 and TI-Nspire are not permitted for exams or quizzes in this course.  Other graphing calculators are permitted, but the additional functionality should not be necessary for this course.  If there are any questions as to which calculators are or are not appropriate, they should be brought up to the instructor in advance of the first exam.

Course Description and Objectives:  The main objective of this course is to introduce students to basic statistical concepts for summarizing, analyzing and presenting data.  Main topics include regression, prediction, probability, estimation, and tests of significance.

This course is approved for the general education “quantitative or formal reasoning” requirement. Courses approved in this area have as their primary purpose the development of the analytical powers of the student as they might be exercises in the presentation and evaluation of mathematical or other formal symbolic systems.

Pre-requisites:  MATH:0100, MATH:1005 or equivalent.  Students should be comfortable with math at the level of elementary algebra (e.g., equation of a straight line, plotting points, percentages, powers and square roots)

Grades:  Grade cutoffs will be no higher than the usual 90-80-70-60 breakdown.  The course will use the +/- grading system.  The instructor reserves the right to lower the cutoff points depending on the instructor’s assessment of class and individual performance. The A+ grade is used only in extraordinary situations.
Homework (25% of grade): Homework will be assigned and collected weekly during discussion. The instructor reserves the right to add additional homework problems up to 36 hours before the due date. Students will turn in their assignments at the beginning of class on its due date. Homework should be neat and stapled, with name at the top of the first page. Unless instructed otherwise, you may work together on homework problems. However, you must write up your solutions in your own words. If you are personally asked to write up your own solutions and subsequently turn in material that is obviously in the same words as a fellow student, the work will be considered to be plagiarized. Due to time constraints, only some of the problems will be graded for correctness, but students are responsible for understanding all questions. As solutions will be posted soon after the due date, late homework and soft submissions will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and with prior or prompt notification.

During the semester, there will be two presentations---one on regression and one on hypothesis testing. These will be counted as a big homework assignment.

Exams (25/25/25%): Three exams will be given: two midterms on October 3rd and November 7th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. There will also be a final at a time and location TBD. Students will be permitted to use their calculator, and one notecard that is 3” by 5” (front and back) of handwritten notes. In addition, any needed tables and formulas will be provided.

Make-Ups: Students are expected to be present for the exams at the scheduled time. If you have an unavoidable conflict it is up to you to make appropriate arrangements as quickly as possible. Appropriate documentation should be provided. There will be no make-up exams given except in extraordinary circumstances.

Grading: Questions about grading must be asked within two class days of the graded work’s return.

Attendance: Frequent attendance is vital to your success in this course. As such, students are responsible for any material covered during absences. Random checks for attendance will be taken as a homework grade. Strong attendance and/or class participation may positively impact your grade.

Classroom Environment: Activities which are unacceptable include prolonged conversation with a fellow student or use of cell phones, laptops, etc. in class.

Extra Help: A list of tutors is maintained in 241 SH.
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 Student Academic 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. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities: A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/sds/ for more information. ~ Academic Honesty: All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College’s Code of Academic Honesty: “I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the 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 (see CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies: The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the tenth day of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. 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. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar’s web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student’s responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic 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 Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment 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 Public Safety web site