Course Information for STAT:5090 “ALPHA Seminar”
Fall 2016

Instructor
Dale Zimmerman, a.k.a. “Dr. Z;” 217 SH,
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Course Format
Class meetings 12:30-1:20 pm Tuesdays, 51 SH.

Office Hours
1:30 – 2:20 pm Mondays; 9:30-11:20 am Wednesdays; or by appointment.

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

Department Executive Officer
Professor Joseph Lang, 241 SH, Phone 335-0712, E-mail joseph-lang@uiowa.edu

Course Description
The goal of this course is to orient, guide, and perhaps build some community among first-year graduate students in Statistics. Included in that is ensuring that you understand the program requirements and what it takes to succeed; become acquainted with the research interests of our faculty and learn what is involved in statistical research; learn about statistical organizations, the statistics profession and career opportunities; and gain some understanding of how to access the statistical literature.

The class will be very informal and no huge time demands will be placed on you to prepare for each week. However, that does not mean you can be passive. You will have an occasional reading/writing/computing assignment, constructed with the above goals in mind.

Here are some of the topics or activities to anticipate:

- History of Statistics, including here at Iowa
- The Iowa graduate Statistics program, including elective courses and the research interests of our faculty
- The statistics profession and its various organizations
- Career and internship opportunities
- Statistical literature: online journals, search engines
- Topics that come up in your courses

Grading
Grading is S–U. If you come to classes, participate, and complete the few required assignments, you will receive a grade of “satisfactory.”
Course website
Some materials may be posted or linked (click on 22S:170 ALPHA Seminar) to Dr. Z’s webpage at
homepage.stat.uiowa.edu/~dzimmer/

Academic Fraud
All forms of plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is
not his or her own are academic fraud. All academic fraud is reported first to the departmental
DEO and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services. See Academic Fraud at http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml for the complete
policy.

Making a Suggestion or Complaint
Students have the right to make suggestions or complaints and should first visit with me, then
with the departmental DEO (if necessary). All complaints must be made as soon as possible.
For more information, visit Student Complaints at
http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessi-
ble to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which
include but are not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or
health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first reg-
ister 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 more information.

Understanding Sexual Harassment
Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the
mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit this
site (http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/) for definitions, assistance, and the full Univer-
sity policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather
The University of Iowa Operations Manual section 16.14 outlines appropriate responses to a
tornado (see subsection (i)) or to a similar crisis. If a tornado or other severe weather is indi-
cated by the National Weather Service radar, the Johnson County outdoor weather sirens will
sound. If these sirens sound (and it is not the first Monday of the month at 9:00 am when the
sirens are tested), members of the class will seek appropriate shelter immediately, continuing
class if possible when the event is over.

Student Classroom Behavior
The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior,
distracting others; such behaviors are a violation of the Code of Student Life. When disrup-
tive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority to determine classroom seating patterns and to request that a student exit the classroom, laboratory, or other area used for instruction immediately for the remainder of the period. One-day suspensions are reported to appropriate departmental, collegiate, and Student Services personnel (Office of the Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students).