Course Information for 22S:170 (STAT:5090) “ALPHA Seminar”  
Fall 2014

Instructor
Professor Dale Zimmerman, a.k.a. “Dr. Z,” 217 SH, Phone 5-0818, E-mail dale-zimmerman@uiowa.edu

Course Format
Class meetings 12:30-1:20 pm Tuesdays, 31 SH.

Office Hours
1:30 – 3:20 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 Luke Tierney, 241 SH, Phone 335-0712, E-mail luke-tierney@uiowa.edu

Course Description
The goal of this course is to orient, build community among, and guide 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 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:

- Issues that come up in your courses
- History of Statistics, including here at Iowa
- The Iowa graduate Statistics program, including research interests of our faculty
- The statistics profession and its various organizations
- Career and internship opportunities
- Statistical literature: online journals, search engines
- How to read and write a statistics paper — and some practice in doing so

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 will 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

Students with Disabilities:

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability that may require some modification of seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Please see me about this as soon as possible.

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 University 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 indicated 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 disruptive 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).