

**ST 260**  
**STATISTICAL DATA ANALYSIS**  
**Fall 2009**  
**SYLLABUS & COURSE POLICY**

**Lecture: Monday/Wednesday/Friday: Alston 30**  
**8:00-8:50 (Section 1) and 9:00-9:50 (Section 2)**

**INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM**

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Subha Chakraborti (Office: 345 Alston Hall)  
**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:** To be announced.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is an introduction to basic statistical methods with emphasis on applications. Topics include graphical displays of data, descriptive statistics including measures of central tendency and variation, discrete and continuous probability distributions including the binomial and the normal distribution, sampling distributions, probability, and regression analysis. Aspects of statistical inference such as confidence intervals and tests of hypotheses are also covered.

**OBJECTIVES**

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to view decision-making problems from a quantitative perspective--understand the importance of good data and objective analysis in making practical decisions--be proficient with graphical and analytical tools for extracting information from data--see the relevance of statistics in everyday life--know when to be skeptical of published results and ask pertinent questions.

**Prerequisite:** CS 102 and MA 112 or equivalents. **Basic computer skills and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel will be expected.**

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Textbook: *Introduction to Business Statistics*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. by Ron Weiers. Student CD packaged with the book, material at the course website. EXCEL and MINITAB will be used; MINITAB is available in the computer lab.

**TESTS/QUIZZES/ASSESSMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS**

**Three tests** and a **Final** exam are given. All tests are comprehensive, closed book and to be taken as scheduled. Instructions for exams will be announced. Formula sheets and tables are provided. A **basic calculator** (without graphics/programmable/statistics features) will be allowed during tests. **Homework** will be assigned regularly but only a few will be graded. It is your responsibility to get answers to your questions. See Assistance below. **Quizzes/Assessments** will be given at times of our choosing; some will be online. These may be based on all work, reading and homework assignments, lectures, computer work and projects done up to that day. Group-work is encouraged but any material turned in for credit must be your own work or penalties will apply--this includes on line assessments. All questions about grades must be resolved within a week from the day results are made available.

**Make-ups:** No make-ups are allowed for tests, quizzes, assessments or any assignments. It is up to you to resolve any conflicts. No late work is accepted. In extraordinary circumstances, some accommodations might be made at my discretion. You are not allowed to turn-in anyone else's work; violators will be dealt with according to the UA academic misconduct policy.

**COURSE GRADE**

	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Final	Quiz/Assessments & Homework
Weight (%)	20	20	20	25	15

**Guaranteed grades:** According to your final course average (in %): A ( $\geq 90\%$ ), B ( $\geq 80\%$  and  $< 90\%$ ), C ( $\geq 69\%$  and  $< 80\%$ ), D ( $\geq 60\%$  and  $< 69\%$ ), F ( $< 60\%$ ). Adjustments to the cut-points and assignment of +/- grades can be made. Also see attendance adjustment under Attendance below.

**Your participation** in class discussions is *required* and can materially affect your grade. This includes answering questions and discussing assignment solutions in class when asked to do so. Any *disruptive behavior* can result in administrative lowering of grades. All policies will be enforced. Your **valid UA ACT** card must be shown on demand anytime. 8/18/09

**SOME DETAILS TO REMEMBER**

You must be in class before the hour (8 or 9), take your **assigned seat** (seating chart to be posted), and stay through the entire class period. Late arrivals and early departures are not permitted and you can be marked absent or miss a quiz or not allowed to turn in an assignment. See more on attendance later. A pattern of late arrivals or early departures can result in lowering of grades at my discretion. **No food, drinks, newspapers, beepers, hand held computing or recording devices or cell phones are allowed inside the classroom or during testing.** Violations may result in confiscation and your grade may be affected. The companion document **Day-to-day schedule** gives a tentative outline of the expected class and coverage sequence, the actual pace and contents covered may vary. The test dates are shown in the schedule. It is your responsibility to take all tests and assessments on appointed dates.

**ATTENDANCE**

Experience suggests a strong relationship between high attendance and doing well in the course. Attendance will be taken on unannounced days and at times of our choosing. If you are not seated in your assigned seat at the time attendance is taken, you will be marked absent! This means you can miss an assessment or a quiz or fail to turn in homework. **Attendance Adjustment:** For zero or one absence, add 2 bonus points to your course total; for exactly one absence, add 1 bonus point. Subtract 2 points for each unexcused absence beyond the fifth.

**TECHNOLOGY**

The course **homepage** is at [elearning.ua.edu](http://elearning.ua.edu) and can be easily accessed through [mybama.ua.edu](http://mybama.ua.edu). Visit this site regularly for announcements, updates, posted lecture notes, assessments, data files, etc. We are not responsible for any problems encountered on any computer systems, networks, software, and browsers **so don't e-mail us; see consultants at the computer center.** We recommend that on-campus resources be used.

**You must check your e-mail** frequently so that you can respond in a timely manner. Some e-mail may be sent via e-learning. You are responsible for keeping track of all information. No exceptions are allowed.

Copies of all posted and handout materials, including lecture notes, exams, quizzes, practice tests, keys, etc. are proprietary materials for limited time use only for this course. These materials are not meant for storage, circulation, or mass copying and distribution; not all of these materials would remain available until the end of the semester!

**Important:** Come to class prepared! This is required and will make a difference in your performance! Prior to every lecture, print and read over the posted lecture notes. After a lecture, do any homework or assigned reading, whether or not it is to be turned in, before the due date. **Don't postpone getting help** (see assistance below). Only highlights and parts of the notes will be covered in class, rest is your responsibility. All **assignments** to be **turned in** must be your work and are to be prepared according to instructions and using posted templates or may not be accepted!

**ASSISTANCE**

Help is available in the form of one-on-one contacts, office hours, course homepage and evening help sessions. *Discussion of homework is not encouraged during the lectures.* You are strongly advised to visit with the instructor and/or the teaching assistants/tutors during office hours and review sessions to have your questions answered in more detail. These visits can be more productive when you first make an honest effort to solve the problem. We will be happy to provide guidance so that **you can** complete the job yourself. **Note:** It is not possible to respond to all e-mails so don't send me one unless it's a true emergency; contact an assistant, visit with me or make an appointment.

**FINALLY**

We want you to do well. You must keep up with the daily work and get your questions answered ahead of time! Don't wait until the last minute. *Your attitude and conduct both inside and outside the classroom can make a big difference in your performance and in what you get out of this class.*

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the policy during the semester. UA academic honor code, emergency and inclement weather policies will be followed. You must first visit the office of disability services and then talk to the instructor at least a week prior to any request for accommodation.