

MTH 110: Elementary Statistics

Course Syllabus Spring 2012
Chatham University

Meeting Times: TTH 10:00-11:15 in Buhl Hall, Beckwith Auditorium

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Office Hours: TTH 11:15-12:15 and by appointment

Course Catalog Description

Topics include statistical measures and distributions, decision making under uncertainty, application of probability to statistical inference, linear correlation, introduction to nonparametric statistical methods, and application to problems drawn from the natural and social sciences.

Prerequisites: Two years of college-preparatory mathematics.

Relationship to the College Mission

This course fulfills the Gen. Ed. Requirement for quantitative reasoning and the statistics requirement for many majors. It is required for the B.A. and B.S. in mathematics. Finally, this course is part of the mathematics curriculum that prepares World-Ready Women.

Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes

1. Numerical data is present almost everywhere, and as an active or passive consumer of this information, it is critical to have a **basic understanding of statistical concepts and measures**.
2. The more aware you are of **techniques for collecting, organizing, summarizing, and presenting data**, the better able you are to critique the validity and application of statistical results.
3. Regardless of your field of study, your ability to **apply statistical methods to analyze and interpret data** will assist you in making informed decisions and communicating results with others.

Teaching and Learning Methods

The main mode of learning in this class is reading the textbook and working assigned homework exercises from the text. Students are responsible for reading assigned portions of the textbook, whether or not the topics are discussed in class. Lectures will provide explanation and emphasis for material and examples in the textbook. The instructor will ask questions to stimulate thinking and participation. Students' comments and questions are highly encouraged. Some Internet resources will also be used to supplement lectures and discussions.

Grading and Evaluation

Your total grade for the course will be based on the following, weighted appropriately:

- Exam 1 (30%)
- Exam 2 (30%)
- Homework & Quizzes (30%)
- Attendance & Participation (10%)

Two exams will be given in this class. The first will take place sometime shortly before Spring Break, the second at the end of the semester. The final will not be cumulative, aside from the understanding that later parts of the course will build on your knowledge from previous weeks. Graded homeworks and quizzes will alternate, with roughly one every three classes. Ungraded homeworks will be provided for practice during the alternating weeks when quizzes are expected.

The grade scale is as follows, with a plus or a minus added to a grade within 2 points of a break point:

A – 90-100	A	4.00	excellent
B – 80-89	A-	3.67	
C – 70-79	B+	3.33	good
D – 60-69	B	3.00	
F – below 59	B-	2.67	
	C+	2.33	satisfactory
	C	2.00	
	C-	1.67	
	D+	1.33	minimal performance
	D	1.00	
	D-	0.67	
	F	0.00	unsatisfactory performance, no credit

Raw grades for the exams are based on the accuracy and merit of the content. In addition, the grades for the exams and the project will be affected negatively if the quality of language use or the mechanics of the calculations undermine the overall logic and credibility of the content.

Course Resources

- **Required Text:** *Elementary Statistics, A Step by Step Approach: A Brief Version*, Allan G. Bluman, 5th Edition
- **Calculator:** A calculator with square root function is required and should be brought to all classes and exams.
- **Software:** MS Office Excel, with the Analysis Pack add-on, will be used throughout the course. Students are expected to have a basic proficiency with Excel and to use Excel for some homework assignments.
- **Moodle:** Chatham's Moodle class management software will be used to post information (syllabus, schedule, assignments, grades, announcements) and to post some assignments.
- **PACE Center (Library):** provides FREE tutoring for all students at Chatham

Course Policies

- **Attendance Policy:** The University Catalog states: Every student enrolled at Chatham accepts the responsibility to attend all required class meetings. To obtain the fullest benefit from their courses, students must participate fully. This implies attending regularly, engaging in course activity, completing work on time, and making up work missed because of an emergency absence. In this course, students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who are absent from class without excuse cannot expect assistance with obtaining missed lecture notes or handouts, and are responsible for obtaining any information regarding changes in assignment due dates, testing dates, and other requirements. According to the University Catalog, the Vice President for Academic Affairs may excuse absences only in the case of a documented illness or other serious emergency. The Catalog also states that it is the student's responsibility to let the instructor know within the drop-add period at the start of the term if she will have to miss class for religious reasons, athletic activities, or other scheduled events.
- **Missed Exams and Assignments:** No late assignments are accepted without a documented illness or emergency. If you are unable to attend class for any other reason, you must make arrangements with me to turn in your assignment BEFORE class. Exams must be taken at scheduled times. This includes the final exam. Please check the syllabus and with the instructor BEFORE making any travel plans for the end of the semester. Missed exams will receive a grade of zero without a documented illness or emergency.
- **Behavior:** This is a learning environment, and it is expected that the students and the instructor will respect each other and refrain from any conduct that disrupts the learning process. Such norms are set forth in the Catalog under Student Rights and Responsibilities, and in the Student Handbook under Honor Code and Policies. Please be sure that you have read and understood these materials, as classroom behavior that violates these norms will not be tolerated. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones or music players is distracting and not permitted during class.
- **Communication:** Questions or complaints should be directed to the instructor in person or through email first. If we are unable to reach a resolution, the complaint should be taken to the department chair, Dr. Larry Viehland (Buhl 030). All communication should be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.
- **Homework Policy:** Statisticians frequently make use of technology in their work. However, technology can sometimes make assignments too easy, and can prevent students from learning the calculations behind various statistical analysis techniques. Therefore, all homework assignments should be hand-written, unless specifically noted that a problem should be solved using Excel. Additionally, students are permitted to collaborate on the procedures and theory behind solving individual homework problems; however, the homework that you submit should be your own (solutions should not be shared), and you must note any and all collaborators at the top of your homework.
- **Computer Policy:** All Chatham students have been provided with a laptop computer, and we will occasionally use these computers during lessons where the focus is solving statistics problems with technology. At other times during class, laptops are permitted to be used for taking notes, but not for any other purpose (e.g. quizzes, exams, surfing the Internet). Please do nothing to distract other students from learning.

Chatham Policies

- **Chatham University Honor Code:** Chatham University students pledge to maintain the Honor Code, which states in part: “*Honor is that principle by which we at Chatham form our code of living, working, and studying together. The standards of honor at Chatham require that all students act with intellectual independence, personal integrity, honesty in all relationships, and consideration for the rights and well-being of others.*” Information about the Honor Code is available in the Student Handbook.
- **Cheating and Plagiarism:** Cheating is defined as the attempt, successful or not, to give or obtain aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examinations. Plagiarism is defined as the use, without proper acknowledgement, of the ideas, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse from another writer or speaker.
- **Disability Statement:** Chatham University is committed to providing an environment that ensures that no individual is discriminated against on the basis of her disability. Students with disabilities, as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and who need special academic accommodations, should notify the assistant dean of the PACE Center as soon as possible. The PACE Center will work with students and the course instructor to coordinate and monitor the provision of reasonable academic accommodations.
- **Non-Registered Students Policy (revised Fall 2006):** In accordance with University policy, only officially registered students may attend this class and all other classes offered at the University after the drop/add period. Please confer with your academic advisor if you need assistance with the registration process or you need additional information.
- **Concerns:** All concerns about the course content, instructional material or methods, or the instructor, should first be discussed with the instructor. If a resolution of the complaint is not achieved, the complaint(s) should be taken to the division chairperson and then, if necessary, to the Academic Vice President.
- **Grading Appeals:** If you wish to appeal a grade or have a problem with the course, please come to the instructor first. If we are unable to reach a resolution, the complaint(s) should be taken first to the department chair, Dr. Larry Viehland (Buhl 030) and then, if necessary, to the Academic Vice President.
- **Learning Resources:** The PACE Center provides tutorial and other types of assistance for any course taught at Chatham University. When you encounter problems in this, or any other, course, you should start by going to your instructor’s office and asking for help. After this, if you find that you need more help, then you should call or visit the PACE Center.