



Spring 2017

Instructor: Nick Lucas

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Virtual Office Hours: Thursdays 6:00 – 7:00pm

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Course Description

Stat 145 online introduces the student to the basic principles and applications of descriptive and inferential statistics. The issues which underlie the methods of statistical design and analysis are presented using various examples with the hope that the student will gain a better understanding of statistics and their applications. Although introductory statistics courses are often thought of as just another math class, this course focuses on the understanding and application of statistics rather than the underlying theoretical and computational aspects which often leave the student with a mindful of formulae but little understanding of their application and interpretation.

There is no assigned textbook for this class. However, additional online resources will be made available. All material for the class shall be presented in downloadable lecture notes and instructional videos. All homework assignments and any extra credit assignments can only be obtained through the class portal. Each week, students will need to watch the assigned instructional video, participate in a class discussion relevant to the topics covered in that week's lecture, and work on the assigned homework problems.

Students are encouraged to send the instructor questions as needed and participate in class discussion boards. Students are also encouraged to utilize the instructor's virtual office hours. Time management is also extremely important. If you don't plan sufficient time for studying class materials and watching instructional video, you will always find yourself behind and confused. This class requires participation, effective communication, organization, patience, and the motivation to learn. Your participation in this class is your responsibility and the consequence for non-participation is also your responsibility. **Students requiring a reasonable accommodation are asked to contact the instructor immediately.**

Learning Objectives

1. Descriptive Statistics, Data Production and Inference: Students will learn basic vocabulary, logic, and procedures for data exploration, data production, and statistical inference.

2. Data Exploration: Students will understand principles of data exploration and differentiate between quantitative and categorical variables. Students will illustrate by way of graphs and the use of tables how to interpret data. They will identify the underlying principles and measures used to analyze this data.

3. Procedures for data production: Students will demonstrate that they can use tables of random numbers to perform simple random sampling to obtain samples from populations. They will show that they can distinguish differences between observational studies and experiments. Students will demonstrate techniques for the design of a controlled experiment.

4. Sampling Distributions: Students will be recognize and apply the terms population, sample, parameter and statistics as they pertain to sampling distributions. They will apply the concept of the Law of Large Numbers and Central Limit Theorem. They will demonstrate the ability to obtain the sampling distribution of sample means and spread of a population.

5. Making Inferences: Students will demonstrate an understanding for the procedures involved in making inferences about quantitative populations.

6. Tests for Independence of two categorical variables: Students will be able to interpret 2-way tables, stating hypothesis, calculating expected counts and using Chi Square distribution to test for independence.

How to Communicate with Your Instructor

Students are encouraged to call, email, or message me at ANY time. I will do my best to get back with you as soon as possible. Students can also message me through the class site on Blackboard. The virtual office hour listed on the first page is the best time to reach me, however, I am happy to respond to messages throughout the day when I can.

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Homework

There will be 9 homework assignments. These assignments will consist of short answer problems and problems to be worked using Microsoft Excel. Each homework assignment is worth 20 to 30 points. Credit is given based on the amount of effort shown in your work and not the number of correct or incorrect answers. In order to obtain full credit, all work **must** be shown, including all work done in Excel (Refer to the Assignments Rubric for more information on grading criteria). **Homework assignments must be received by the assigned date and time. No late assignments shall be accepted – no exceptions.**

Review Exercises

From time to time, students will be given exercises to review the material just presented. These exercises will provide students the opportunity to earn extra credit. Although there is no specific number of exercises planned, students can expect to have the opportunity to earn no less than 50 points extra credit. Review Exercises are graded using the Assignments Rubric.

Discussion Boards and Participation

Students are required to actively participate in the weekly discussion boards. Students are required to respond initially to the discussion board question by initiating an Original Thread. The Discussion Board is where we assess your participation as if you were in a regular in-person class. You are expected to be an active and engaged member of the class. You are required to participate in all discussion posts during the semester. Discussion posts take numerous forms. They could involve responding to questions and commenting on the lecture presentations or answering another student's questions regarding the material. Please refer to the Netiquette Rules on the About this Course page regarding appropriate conduct when posting in discussion boards.

Each discussion board assignment is worth 10 points. In order to receive full credit for these posts, you must fulfill some basic requirements as defined in the Discussion Board Rubric. Active participation in the online discussions helps create a learning community and gives you opportunities to work with and get to know other students. Discussion questions and instructions are located in the Discussion Board section of the course site.

Exams

There will be four exams. Students should use a UNM campus computer to take the exam or a computer connected to the internet using an Ethernet cord (not WiFi). The first three exams are worth 100 points each. Exams will include material from the video lecture, notes, homework assignments and review exercises. Exam questions will consist of multiple-choice and short answer items. Class materials will not be available while taking exams. Students will use Microsoft Excel during exams and will need to attach all work completed in Excel to receive any credit. The fourth or final exam will be cumulative exam covering material throughout the semester. The final exam will require students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in applying the information learned over the semester. The final exam is worth 300 points. Students may only make-up missed exams if they have contacted the instructor at least 24 hours prior to the exam due date.

Grades

Your final course grade will be computed from the four test scores, nine homework scores, and points earned from participating in the discussion boards. There are a total of 1000 points possible for the course (Discussion Board Participation @ 150 points; 9 homeworks @ 250 points; three exams @ 300 points; and the final exam @ 300 points; for a total of 1000 points possible for the class). The assignment of final letter grades will be contingent on the total class performance. However, students may expect the following grading distribution to be used in lieu of the total class performance: A = > 899, B = > 799, C = > 699; 699 and below → Instructor's Withdrawal (or 'W').

Academic Dishonesty

Students may work with one another on assignments but each must contribute an equal share. In other words, each student must understand the concept and be able to perform the skill on his/her own. Copying or relying on another student for answers is considered cheating. If it is found that a student committed any infractions of honest academic process, he or she will lose credit for the assignment or assessment, may be dropped from the course, lose credit, and/or Fail the course.

Accessibility Support

Students requiring accessibility support need to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Students requesting support services from Accessibility Services are required to submit documentation of a disability to verify eligibility under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the University of New Mexico Policy 2310. ADA defines a disability as a substantial limitation of a major life function. Submission of documentation is not the same as the request for services. Request for services and/or reasonable accommodations must be initiated by the student once he/she is admitted to the University of New Mexico (UNM). The student must schedule an intake appointment with Accessibility Services so that support services and reasonable accommodations may be discussed.



CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Chapter	Material Covered
1/17	1	Introduction; Why statistics? What is data? Scales of measurement; Populations versus samples
1/23	1 & 2	Types of variables; Research Designs; Sampling methods; Describing Data: Pie Charts & Bar Graphs
1/30	2 & 3	Describing Data with Histograms; Describing Data: Measures of Central Tendency
2/3		Last day to drop a class with a complete refund
2/6	3	Describing Data: Measures of Central Tendency and Variability
2/13	3	Describing Data: Measures of Variability
2/19		EXAM1: Must be completed by 11:59p.m., Sunday, 2/19. Covers Chapters 1, 2, & 3; HWs 1 - 2; Rev Exer 1 – 2
2/20	4	Examining relationships between variables: Correlation between two variables
2/27	4	Examining relationships between variables: Testing the statistical significance between two variables
3/6	4	Bivariate Linear regression
3/12		EXAM 2: Must be completed by 11:59p.m., Sunday, 10/9. Covers Chapter 4; HWs 3 & 4; Rev Exer 3 & 4
3/13		*** SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS 3/13 – 3/19 ***
3/20	5	The Normal Distribution; Finding areas under the normal curve
3/27	5 & 6	Standard error of sampling distributions; Confidence Intervals
4/3	6	Confidence; Using Student's t – distribution; How does sample size affect estimating population values?
4/9		EXAM3: Must be completed by 11:59p.m., Sunday, 4/9. Covers Chapters 5 & 6; HWs 5 & 6; Rev Exer 5 & 6
4/10	7	Hypothesis testing; Statistical errors; Statistical Power
4/17	7	Significance tests comparing population means; How are confidence intervals and significance tests linked?; The matched-pairs t – test.
4/24	7	The independent-groups t – test;
5/1	8	Nonparametric Tests: The One-Way and Two-Way Chi-square tests
5/10		EXAM 4: Must be completed by 11:59p.m., May 10, 2016. Covers <u>all</u> chapters, homeworks, and review exercises. Exams received after the deadline will NOT be accepted. No exceptions.