INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS
Math 1350-504
Fall 2026

Syllabus

Instructor:	Dr. James Farslow
Classroom:	Online via Canvas (canvas.unm.edu) and lobomail. You must have a UNM net ID and access to a reliable internet service.
Class hours:	Asynchronous – At your convenience (explained below). Video material is equivalent to two 75 minute classes a week.
Office:	Online, via email (below), or Zoom.
Office Hours:	Tuesday, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Zoom; or by appointment (email me). Zoom meetings: https://unm.zoom.us/j/93408483239 Meeting Number: 934 0848 3239 These times may be subject to change. During the school week email me with questions or problems.
Email:	jfars@unm.edu (Best way to contact me during the school week. I do not usually respond to e-mail from Friday evening to Sunday evening.)

Course Description: This course discusses the fundamentals of descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will gain introductions to topics such as descriptive statistics, basic probability models used in statistics, sampling and statistical inference, and techniques for the visual presentation of numerical data. These concepts will be illustrated by examples from a variety of fields. This is a 3 credit hour course. Plan on up to 10 hours per week for watching material, taking notes, and doing assignments.

Student Learning Objectives: At the completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the general concepts of statistics;
2. Explain the presentation and description of data;
3. Summarize data using measures of central tendency and variation;
4. Explain the concepts of probability;
5. Compute point and interval estimates for proportions and means;
6. Perform hypothesis tests for proportions and means;
7. Analyze data using regression and correlation;
8. Perform a chi-square test for categorical data.

Text: None required, all material will be provided in the videos. However, if you would like a textbook to review, I recommend "Introductory Statistics: Exploring the World Through Data", 2nd Edition, Gould and Ryan. This is the primary reference I use for the material and examples.

Computer Requirements: You will need to have access to a reliable internet service, preferably using a computer. My office hours will be conducted via Zoom during the times listed above. Email me if you have any questions or problems. Be aware I do not usually respond to emails from Friday evening to Sunday evening.

Course Webpage on Canvas (canvas.unm.edu): Course information including this syllabus, video material, and grades will be available via canvas.unm.edu. This course will appear in your Canvas course listing. The weekly videos and other material are under the Pages link (it will usually show the Welcome page again, I don't know why, with a button above it that says "View all pages"). Extra credit assignments and instructions for the Survey (described below) will be under the Modules link. You can also access Canvas via the Canvas student app. I will also send out emails to the class periodically. Students should check email at least every couple of days, if not every day.

Attendance and Late Assignment Policy: As the class is asynchronous online, there is no attendance to be taken. However, assignments must be completed each week by Sunday at midnight to be accepted. You have all week at your own convenience to read or watch the material and complete the assignment, so except for extreme circumstances, **there are no late assignments, quizzes, or exams**. It is the prerogative of the instructor to decide what constitutes an extreme circumstance. Email me if you have something unusual that comes up that interferes with your ability to complete assignments, quizzes, or exams. Quizzes and exams will be administered on Canvas on Fridays, from 8 am to midnight. Each week, there will be two videos (approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes each) posted under the Pages link of Canvas with the material for that week. Please watch the announcements at the beginning of the Part 1 video each week so you're aware of what is coming up. The dates for the quizzes and exams are also on the course outline at the end of the syllabus. There are no resubmissions of assignments after grading.

It is not the responsibility of the instructor to drop you from the course if you choose to leave the course. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course. However, you may be dropped if you're not participating, but don't rely on that if you decide to drop. Not participating shall be defined as a period of 30 days without completing any assignments.

Academic dishonesty (from the UNM Catalog): "Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty on quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; and misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or outside the University."

This also applies to anyone who allows someone to cheat off of them.

Additionally:
Copying and pasting material from a webpage or AI into your homework assignment is plagiarism. The same method you use to look up the information on the internet is probably the same method I will use to check if you copied it. All I need to do is Google your answer, and yes, I do check.

Also, if you work on homework assignments together, make sure the assignment is in your own words and with your own graphs. Don't just copy what your study partner wrote down.

With regard to the use of AI, a word of caution. AI can sometimes give you answers that are not correct. I have observed this myself, but I'm sure it depends on the specific AI. It would be better not to rely on AI for answers, but I don't prohibit the use of it for research or studying. Use it like you would use any search engine to gain information. Do not use it to answer the problems for you or to write your homework. And make sure to put your answers in your own words.

Sometimes, a number of people's weekly assignments will have the same wrong answer. I suspect they are getting it from: a search engine, AI, or YouTube. If you are going to spend the time watching a YouTube to get the answer, why not just watch the video I post which will address the material of the question in the right context?

Student Behavior: All students will comport themselves as adults in an academic setting. Students will comply with the Student Code of Conduct. On Zoom, be courteous and respectful. The same is true on the Discussion Board. Please read the Netiquette paper on the Pages link of Canvas. Abusive or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, and may result in disciplinary action. Repeated violations could result in removal from the course.

Weekly Assignments: Homework assignments will be posted on Canvas in the Assignments link. These assignments will consist of questions about the material covered that week. Students can work on the assignments together. Make sure that you write your own answers, don't just copy another student's answers. The assignments will be due Sunday at midnight each week. There will be 16 weekly assignments worth 10 points each. The assignments will be numbered based on the week. Some assignments may only require you to fill in the blanks and upload the document to Canvas. Some assignments will require you to work out problems, use your cellphone to take a picture of your work, and then upload the pictures to Canvas. Get the Canvas Student app to make this easier. Let me know if you have any problems with this. If I can't read an answer, it will likely be counted wrong. Make sure to carefully read the questions. Understanding the question asked is an important part of statistical inference.

Discussion Board: The discussion board is on Canvas under the Discussion Board link. There will be questions posted in video format each week, and students will respond with at least

three substantive complete sentences about the topic to receive full credit. Remember, sentences begin with a capital letter, and end with a period. Do not just respond "That's interesting" or "Okay". If there are two parts to the question, make sure to address both parts for full credit. Restating the question does not count toward the three sentences. These discussion responses will count as 10 points each toward the student's grade. There is no right or wrong answer. The questions are intended to stimulate thinking about the subject. Students must post their responses to me by Sunday midnight each week for credit. Students are also encouraged to respond to each other and discuss the week's topic. The discussion board will be asynchronous, meaning that you need to remember you are sending messages that people can respond to when they are able, not a real-time conversation. Students are expected to treat each other and opposing viewpoints with respect. **No trolling.** Students will adhere to the principles of Netiquette, which can be found on the course Canvas site under the Pages link. This should not, however, preclude students from disagreeing or correcting each other, but do it respectfully. I do read all of your responses, but because of the number of responses I usually do not respond to them.

Survey: Students will create a survey, and will conduct the survey with respondents from within or outside of the class. The survey is worth 80 points. Students will then create a statistical summary of the survey and turn it in via Canvas. More details about the survey will be given during the semester. The due date for the survey is listed in the Course Outline at the end of the syllabus.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be administered on Canvas on Friday of the week listed in the Course Outline below, and will be available from 8 am to midnight. The quizzes will be multiple choice, and you will have 30 minutes to complete them once you start. The quizzes will include material for the week they are posted. There will be 5 quizzes worth 25 points each, and the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Material for that week will be fair game for the quizzes. Quizzes are intended to be done individually, not as a group.

Exams: Two midterm exams will be administered on Canvas, worth 150 points each. These exams will consist of multiple choice questions. The questions may include math problems to work out, with the possible answers listed as multiple choice. Students will have one hour to complete the midterms once they start. The final exam will be of a similar format, worth 200 points, and will be comprehensive. Students will have an hour and a half to complete the final exam. The dates for the exams are listed in the Course Outline below. Material for that week will be fair game for the exams. All exams are intended to be done individually. They are not a group effort.

Grading Breakdown:

Homework Assignments (16 @ 10 points each)	160
Discussion Boards (16 @ 10 points each)	160
Survey Assignment	80
Quizzes (4 best @ 25 points each)	100
2 Midterm Exams (@ 150 points each)	300
Final Exam (comprehensive)	200
Total points	1000

Final grades will be awarded based on the percentage of points earned relative to total points. **Note:** Please do **not** think at the end of the semester that if you have a 60% going into the final exam, you only need to make an 80% on the final to pass the course. **This is incorrect.** Remember the final exam is only 200 points out of 1000. If you make 70% or higher on all coursework and exams through the semester, including the final exam, you will pass.

Please read "How to Succeed in This Course" under the Pages link on Canvas.

Grade	From	To
A+	98	100
A	93	97.99
A-	90	92.99
B+	88	89.99
B	83	87.99
B-	80	82.99
C+	78	79.99
C	70	77.99
D	60	69.99
F	0	59.99

Extra Credit: Students can earn extra credit by completing one or two extra credit problems which will be posted on Canvas. First, there is a more theoretical extra credit problem involving a question about sampling. This is extra credit problem 1 and is worth up to 20 points.
In extra credit problem 2, the student will be given raw data and asked a statistical question. The student must figure out what type of analysis is needed, perform the analysis on the raw data, and answer the question. Extra credit problem 2 is worth up to 30 points.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the LGBTQ Resource Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Testing Center: Use of the Testing Center will only be for those identified by Equal Access Services as requiring it, or for unusual circumstances as determined by me.

Course Outline

Date	Week	Subject	Quizzes/Exams
17-Aug	1	Introduction, Data	
24-Aug	2	Graphs	Quiz 1 (28 Aug)
31-Aug	3	Numerical Summaries of Center and Variation	
7-Sep	4	Numerical Summaries of Center and Variation	
14-Sep	5	Correlation and Regression	Quiz 2 (18 Sep)
21-Sep	6	Modeling Variation with Probability	**Exam 1 (25 Sep)**
28-Sep	7	Probability / Normal Models	
5-Oct	8	Normal Models / (**Fall Break 8-9 Oct)**	
12-Oct	9	Binomial Models / Sampling	Quiz 3 (16 Oct)
19-Oct	10	Sampling and Inference	
26-Oct	11	Confidence Intervals of Proportions	**Exam 2 (30 Oct)**
2-Nov	12	Hypothesis Testing for Proportions - z-test	
9-Nov	13	Hypothesis Testing for Proportions - z-test	Survey Due (13 Nov)
16-Nov	14	Comparing Two Groups - t-test	Quiz 4 (20 Nov)
23-Nov	15	Comparing Two Groups - t-test	
30-Nov	16	Association Between Categorical Variables - chi-square	Quiz 5 (4 Dec)
7-Dec	17	**Final Exam (11 Dec)**	

Note: Instructor reserves the right to make required changes during the course.