

MA 171 Introduction to Statistics

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Office hours:
3:00 M W Th F
By Appointment:
12:30 M W Th F
6:30 pm Tu Th

Prerequisites: MA103, MA104, MA105, or equivalent.

Text: *Basic Statistics and Data Analysis*, Larry J. Kitchens

The book includes a CD that contains data sets for many of the problems in the book. The data sets can be downloaded onto your computer – you can then use them without inserting the CD each time. The data sets can also be downloaded from the publisher’s website (www.duxbury.com). The CD also contains videos explaining how to use MiniTab (statistical software).

Other Supplies:

A computer is necessary to use the MiniTab software that we will be using. TI-Interactive and Microsoft Excel (which are provided on University-owned laptops) can also be used for some of the things we will be doing.

MiniTab statistical software can be rented for the semester from a website on the internet. There is also a 30-day free trial available. I will give you more details in class about how to obtain MiniTab.

For in-class use, you will need either a laptop computer or a TI-83 calculator. (The TI-83 is the only calculator I know of that contains all of the statistical functions that we will be using. For some things, any graphing calculator can be used.)

If you have a calculator, you may sometimes want to use it for basic calculations.

Also, a “see-through” ruler (6-inch is good) can be useful for fitting a line through a set of data points.

General Information:

This course is an introduction to statistics. We will cover material from most of the chapters of the book. The course will cover descriptive statistics and inferential statistics, with an emphasis on how to use statistics to make decisions.

There will be approximately three or four 'major' exams, including a final exam. There will also be assignments to be handed in. Some of these assignments will be done individually and some will be done in groups. There will also be quizzes to provide feedback on how things are going. The quizzes, taken all together, will count approximately the same as one exam (or less).

Most of the grade will be based on the exams (probably about 60% or maybe more); the rest of the grade will be based on quizzes and assignments (the exact percentages will depend on how many assignments and quizzes there actually are).

The course has been set up with two "double" class sessions per week so that there will be time to work on group "workshop" projects during class time.

Physical Disabilities:

If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office located in Room 1104 of the University Center (227-1700; TTY 227-1543). Reasonable and effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.