# Syllabus for MA 171, General Statistics
# Fall 2008

**Instructor:** Qinghong Zhang
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**Office Hours:** 11:00—1:00, MTWR, and by appointments
**Class Time:** 7:00—8:40 MW
**Place:** WS 3801

This course satisfies the Formal Communication Studies requirement.

This course is designed to introduce students to the ways in which information and ideas are expressed using a communication system other than English. Such courses should foster the student's ability to conceptualize and communicate in an orderly, rational manner. Characteristics of a communication system include: 1) possession of a grammar; 2) operation from an established set of rules; 3) reasoning properties such as deduction, inference drawing and problem solving. This includes courses in languages and those in which the central focus of the course is on statistics, computers or formal logic.

**Course Description:** Descriptive Statistics. Probability. Discrete and Continuous Probability Distributions. Central Limit Theorem. Inferential Statistics. Regression and Correlation.

**Prerequisite:** A grade of **C-** or better in MA103, MA104, or MA105, or satisfactory score on the Math Placement Exam.

**Textbook:** Elementary Statistics (A brief version), 4th Edition by Allan Bluman.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all the classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of the class.

**Homework, Quizzes and Tests:** Homework will be assigned for each class. Quizzes will be given on Thursdays. I will drop the 2 lowest quiz scores. There will be four tests tentatively scheduled for 09/11/08, 10/02/08, 10/23/08, and 11/13/08, and a two-hour final exam during the final exam week. The lowest test score will be dropped. Each test counts 20% toward the final grade. The final exam counts 25%. Quizzes will be the remaining 15% toward the final grade. It is important to take the quizzes, tests, and exam at the scheduled time. Generally, no make-ups will be given.

**Grading:** 90%—100% is an A. 80%—89% is a B, etc.

**Disability Services** If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office by: coming into the office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock; calling 227-1700; or e-mailing disserv@nmu.edu. 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.