Northern Michigan University - Winter 2002

MA 171 – Introduction to Probability and Statistics

Monday thru Thursday
8:00 to 8:50 a.m.
213 Jamrich Hall

7:00 to 8:40 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday
216 Jamrich Hall

Instructor: **Pat Jennings**
Office: **321 North Front St. (Near Landmark Inn)**
Phone: **228-2808**
email: **Pat@Jennings.net** [or on campus at **pjenning**]

You must have an email address so that I can contact you.

office hours: **by appointment only**
I will be available in the classroom immediately after class. If you need more time, please call me at my office and schedule an appointment.

Course Content: This course covers descriptive statistics, probability distributions, (not probability since that was covered in MA 103) means, modes, and medians, variance and deviation, Central Limit Theorem, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, regression and correlation, ANOVA, and categorical data.

Text: General Statistics, Fourth Edition, Chase and Brown (Wiley, 2000)

Computer: If you do not have a Thinkpad laptop computer, you need to have a computer at home and internet access. We will be using the *Minitab* statistics program as well as some programs available in the internet.

In addition, I will ask for your email address at the beginning of the semester and will use this to convey information to you. It is your responsibility to check your email before class to find assignments, test dates, class cancellations, etc. I will try to get all information to you at least 24 hours in advance. If you change your email address, please email me a message and let me know. Also, if you have any questions about he class, you may email me (or call me) any time.

Prerequisites: MA 103, MA 104, or MA 105. You should know basic algebra and graphing.

Grading: Grades will be weighted according to the following:

Chapter Tests	50%
Quizzes	20%
Final Exam	30%

The final grade will be a weighted average of the above corresponding to the following scale:

A	90 - 100
B	80 - 89.99
C	70 - 79.99
D	60 - 69.99
F	less than 60

There will be no other grades given. Incompletes will be pursuant to University policy.

Unless announced otherwise, all tests and quizzes are closed book and closed notes. Calculators may be used and tables will be provided, if needed.

Quizzes will be given once or twice a week, unannounced, and cannot be made up under any circumstances. Quizzes will include any in class projects. If you miss only one or two quizzes, it will not significantly affect your grade. However, missing most of them will. Quizzes are very liberally graded and you are encouraged to work with other classmates.

Chapter Tests: There will be at least four tests, usually at the end of each chapter. Tests will be announced at least one week in advance, in class and by email, and you will have one hour to complete it. The actual test dates will depend on how fast the class is going. The Final Exam will be two hours long and will cover the entire course. You *must* take the final exam to pass the course.

Tests can be made up only for a good reason and you must provide documented proof (i.e. note from doctor, subpoena, funeral announcement, etc.) before you can take a makeup. If possible, please notify me before the test if you are not going to be there. Except for university related functions, I will solely determine whether or not the reason that you have for missing a test is valid.

All makeup tests will be taken in the Mathematics Dept. office on the first floor of West Hall. No tests will be returned until all makeups have been completed.

Homework: Homework assignments will be given, but not graded. If you want me to go over a particular homework problem, email me the page and problem number and I will go over it the next class. I will not go over any homework problem unless you email it to me first!

As a general rule, you should spend two hours on homework for every hour that you are in class. (This applies for all courses that you take in college) Since this is a 4 credit hour course, You should spend at least 8 hours per week on reading and homework assignments. If you have had an especially hard time with mathematics in the past, plan on spending at least 12 hours per week for this course. I recommend that you set scheduled times for this course (as well as your other courses) and stick to this schedule. Plan your schedule now so that you do not get bogged down later in the semester.

Attendance: Other than the quiz grades, I will not be taking attendance for this course. However, since you are making such an investment in this course, it is to your advantage to put your best effort into learning the material that is presented by attending class regularly and keeping up on the homework. If you are not able to attend class due to work commitments, child care, or some other reason, let me know and we can work out some reasonable arrangement.

Academic Honesty: You must do all of your own work. If you cheat, you will not learn the material, and if you get away with passing this course by cheating, you will have a very difficult and frustrating time in your later courses. Also, you will be constantly looking over your shoulder worried about getting caught, and that, in itself is not worth it. If you do get caught cheating on a test or other assignment, you will get an automatic **F** for this course, and you could be subject to other sanctions. The bottom line is, if you cheat, you are really cheating yourself out of time, money, and, possibly, your future career.

Disabilities: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office at 1104 University Center (227-1737). 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.

A course outline will be given out during the first week of class.