Course Information

STAT 1053-12 Introduction Statistics for the Social Sciences
Spring 2012

Lectures:  *Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:45PM – 5:00 PM at Funger 108*

Instructor: Dr. Srinivasan Balaji, Assistant Professor

Office Address: Department of Statistics
Room #564
Rome Hall, 801 22nd Street
Telephone Number: 202-994-3383
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Office Hours: Mondays 4:30 PM– 5:30 PM Tuesdays 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM and by appointment.

Lab: The class is divided into 5 sections (Stat 1053-35 through Stat 1053-39) of 30 students each for lab sessions. These meet at varied times in the week and please make sure that you attend the lab for which you are enrolled. The lab sessions will be conducted by the respective TA’s who will also administer the quizzes during the lab.

TA Information: There are two TA’s who will be covering the 5 sections. They will also have office hours which will be informed soon.

Swetha Valluri  valluri@gwmail.gwu.edu Sections 36, 37, 38

Mohammed Chowdhury mohammed@gwu.edu Sections 35 and 39

Course Description

The course will cover the basics of Statistics, Probability and their applications in the Business and Economic statistics.. The main topics to be covered include Descriptive Statistics for univariate and bivariate data, probability and random variables, Binomial and normal distributions, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, correlation and regression. Most of the optional sections will be skipped.

Note: You will also need a calculator to do the problems.

Software: SPSS for Windows and Mac, Version 18. It is available in the bookstore and also in all the computer labs at GWU.

Blackboard: I will be posting the lecture notes in the blackboard. I will also be communicating and sending updates to students using blackboard. Please check your emails regularly and read them carefully. I will also be posting SPSS project, Homework problems, Chapter quizzes etc., in blackboard. Students will receive an email after I post the materials in the blackboard.

Prerequisites

The course does not require any background in Calculus. Basic knowledge of Algebra and Arithmetic are sufficient.

Quizzes and Homework

Homework problems will be assigned for the entire course from the text and you are expected to work through the problems every week based on the materials covered for that week. There will be a 15 to 20 minute quiz during each lab, based on the topics covered in the previous week. The quizzes will be graded and will count towards the final grade. Sometimes you will be given a take-home Homework assignment in place of quiz. The lowest quiz/homework assignment score will be dropped.

SPSS Project

There will be an SPSS project consisting of one or two problems, where you will be using the SPSS software to do the problems. SPSS project will be given after the midterm exam and will be due on the final exam day.

Exams

There will be a closed book midterm and a closed book Final exam. You will also have at least 4 pop-up quizzes (unannounced quizzes) through the course.

Blackboard Chapter Quizzes

There will be Chapter quizzes administered in the blackboard after completing the chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
Pop Quizzes and Attendance

There will be a total of 6 pop quizzes in the course. Pop quiz will be given in the class based on what is covered in that particular class. It will be a simple problem and the score for that will be 1(correct) or 0 (incorrect). You will also get 1 point for attendance on that day. I will drop one pop quiz (lowest) from the final grade. There is no make-up for pop quizzes.

Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 8, 2012, 3:45 – 5 PM
Final Exam: To be announced

Grading Policy

Final grade is computed as follows:

Quizzes and Homework: 25%
Pop Quizzes and Attendance: 10%
Blackboard Chapter Quizzes: 10%
SPSS Project: 5%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:
1. Know and familiarize with the probability tools that are imminent to Statistics
2. Calculate the probabilities of events under natural assumptions on the population.
3. Analyze datasets to infer about a characteristic of interest in a population
4. Apply the Statistical techniques in problems of interest and obtain useful conclusions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance for the class is not mandatory. However I expect you to attend the classes without fail. I suggest that you inform me at least one day prior to your absence. If you are sending me emails regarding attendance write the subject to be Attendance or Absence. In my several years of experience, I have observed that students who do not come to classes regularly perform poorly in the exams and quizzes.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:

- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

Note: Stat 1051, 1053, 1091, 1104, 1111, 1127 are similar courses and credit for only one of these courses can be given. Please contact me for further details.