

Syllabus

Math 355

Fall '17

Text: **Introduction to the Practice of Statistics**, 8th edition by Moore and McCabe

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Office Hours: MW 4:00 – 4:50, T 12:00-12:50, F 2:00 – 2:50
or by appointment (or whenever I'm in... just stop by!)

Class times & room Section 4: MTWF 11:00 – 11:50 in Science A202

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to make sense of statistical claims they encounter and determine their validity
- Students will be able to recognize the difference between good and bad practices in statistics
- Students will be able to effectively communicate statistical ideas, both verbally and in writing
- Students will know how to gather, display, and analyze many common types of statistical data

Calculators

A calculator will be required for this course. It must be capable of doing *two variable statistics* (including linear correlation and regression) and may be used on exams. If you are going to purchase a calculator for this course, a good one might be the **TI-30X IIS**. It's easy to use, easy to find, and it doesn't cost much. All calculators are slightly different. Be sure that you have a manual! Any scientific calculator that can handle two variable statistics will do. (A graphing calculator is fine and a TI-83 is very easy to learn to use. I would not recommend *purchasing* a graphing calculator unless you will need it for other math classes. The TI-83 is the most "user-friendly" for stats.)

Attendance:

You are expected to regularly attend class. When circumstances arise to prevent you from coming to class, you should let your instructor know (email is a great way to do so). Missing exams and/or paper deadlines will only be allowed in the most dire of circumstances and WILL require ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION as to the reason for the absence.

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Grading

Grading will be based on an overall percentage score, using the following scale:

90%+ A- or better	80%-89.9% B-, B or B+
70%-79.9% C-, C or C+	60%-69.9% D-, D or D+
<60% F	

I reserve the right to adjust the final percentage +/- up to about 2%, based on my assessment of your effort and/or participation in the class and course in general.

To get your overall score, you will be graded on the following:

Online Weekly Homework	1/7
Participation/Daily (in class) Homework	1/7
Online Discussion Boards	1/7
5* total exams (counting final)	<u>4/7</u>
Total	100%

Note: you cannot simply add your points together for each activity – a homework point and an exam point, for example, are not worth the same part of your grade.

*Also note: there are five total exams, but they are only worth 4/7 of your grade – you get to drop your lowest exam score! See below for more details.

Online Weekly Homework

People learn best by *doing* rather than watching someone else do – so I will have you do homework (nearly) every week. This homework is online via the LaunchPad website. You will need to sign up for it and do it regularly. Note that homework is worth as much as an exam – so doing well is great for your grade!

This also means that blowing it off or not doing well could cripple your grade. I had a student once who got 97% average on her exams – no joke – but because she never bothered to do in-class work and rarely did homework, she only got a C- in the class! Don't be like that – do your work!

Extra Credit: there will be a discussion board topic listed for each week's homework. If you post a question or an answer to a question on this board, you will receive extra credit for that assignment (+1 point out of 10). Your SUBJECT LINE should include the problem number, and your MESSAGE should include a restatement (full or partial) of the problem. This way, other students will be able to read and learn from the postings. *To be eligible for the extra credit, your posting must have content – a posting such as "I agree" or "That doesn't seem right" does not earn any extra credit on homework.*

Daily Homework

(Almost) every day, there will be one or two homework problems to do before class. These are prep questions, exercises chosen to prepare you for the day's material. There will be a (few) minutes at the start of class for you to compare your answers with those of your classmates – that way you can help each other understand the problems and get them correct before they are turned in.

Note: your classmates can *help* each other, but EACH MUST TURN IN THEIR OWN WRITTEN SOLUTIONS. Merely copying someone else's answer is not acceptable.

Participation

As mentioned above, I believe people learn more from doing something than from watching an instructor talk about it. To that end, many (most?) days will have class work – either worksheets (to do singly or in groups), or class discussions on the topics of the day. You are expected to be in class and participate in the day's activities. *This is part of your grade!* This means two things: if you skip class your grade will tend to suffer, but if you come to class and try hard, your grade will be better for it.

Exams

There will be four exams and a cumulative final, marked on the schedule, below. Note that the actual dates of the exams may vary slightly. Your lowest exam score (in-class or final) will be dropped. This means one of two things:

- 1) you can bomb one test and still do fine in the class, or
- 2) if you are happy with your grade on the last day of class, you can skip the final (as a reward for consistently good work).

Academic Misconduct Policy

I expect you to complete the coursework for this course. Failure to complete an assignment will result in zero points awarded. Also see the following link:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsChap14.pdf>

Student Rights and Responsibilities

You have certain rights and responsibilities. For more information, see the following link: <http://www.uwsp.edu/admin/stuaffairs/rights/rightsCommBillRights.pdf>

Discussion Boards

There will be discussion boards set up for this course, via D2L. There will be *three* discussion board areas:

- 1) Boards for homework problems are optional and can earn you extra credit. These boards will be available to every student in the section.
- 2) General discussion boards are optional and offer no grade benefit. They are set up to allow you to ask your professor questions, or to offer a place for discussions not about the material (e.g., organizing study sessions, complaints about the book, etc.). These boards will be available to every student in the section.
- 3) Course discussion boards are required. Each of you will be assigned a small discussion group of 5 to 6 students and expected to post on a statistics-related topics (listed in the board forum). The groups will be shuffled periodically, so you will not have the same group throughout the semester.

EACH WEEK, you will be expected to make original posts and respond to the posts of other students. A rubric for postings will be made available, in class and on-line. **IT IS EXPECTED THAT YOU WILL MAKE ABOUT TWO "MEDIUM DEPTH" POSTS PER WEEK.** Note that all posts within a 24-hour period will count as one post for grading purposes – so you will need to be on the board more than once per week.

All boards will be monitored after the fact. That is, you will post directly to the board, and I will monitor periodically throughout the week. Certain standards apply to postings:

- Postings are never anonymous
- Postings must not contain inappropriate (foul, rude, hostile) language

Violation of these rules may constitute academic misconduct (see below).

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Schedule (subject to modification):

<u>Week</u>	<u>Sections</u>	<u>Tests, notes, etc.</u>
1 9/5 to 9/8	1.1, 1.2	
2 9/11 to 9/15	1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2	
3 9/18 to 9/22	2.3 to 2.6	
4 9/25 to 9/29	2.7	Computer Lab Tuesday, Exam Friday
5 10/2 to 10/6	3.1 to 3.4	
6 10/9 to 10/13	3.5, 4.1, 4.2	
7 10/16 to 10/20	4.3 to 4.5	
8 10/23 to 10/27	5.1, 5.2	Exam Tuesday
9 10/30 to 11/3	6.1 to 6.3	
10 11/6 to 11/10	6.4, 7.1, 7.2	
11 11/13 to 11/17	7.3	Computer Lab Tuesday, Exam Friday
12 11/20 to 11/22	8.1, 8.2	Thanksgiving Thursday
13 11/27 to 12/1	9.1, 9.2, 2.3, 2.4, 10.1	
14 12/4 to 12/8	10.1	Computer Lab Tuesday, Exam Friday
15 12/11 to 12/15	course review	
Final's Week	Cumulative FINAL	Monday, December 18, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

