STAT 472 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics: Course Syllabus for Spring 2015

Instructor: Dr. Alan M. Polansky
Hours: 10:00am–10:50am on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or by appointment in Du Sable 361D
Email: polansky@niu.edu

Course Information
Credit Hours: 3 (Undergraduate)
Room: Wirtz Hall 110
Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00AM to 11:50AM


Blackboard: Online communication for this course will be handled through Blackboard.

Learning Outcomes:
1. Capacity to formulate problems within a statistical framework
2. Essential skills for the analysis of applied problems using mathematical statistics
3. Knowledge of fundamental theoretical results in mathematical statistics
4. Knowledge of the supporting theory for fundamental theoretical results in mathematical statistics
5. Knowledge of the applied analysis of data using the R computing environment

Topical Course Outline:

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Grading:
- Two examinations will be given during the semester on Friday March 6, 2015 and Wednesday April 29, 2015 during the regular class time. Each exam will count for 25% of your final grade.
- A comprehensive final examination will be given on Wednesday May 6, 2015 from 10:00AM until 11:50 AM. This exam will count for 30% of your final grade.
- Homework will be assigned throughout the semester and will count for 15% of your grade.
- Computer based homework will be given with each chapter and will count for 5% of your grade.
- The final course grade is based on the percentage of the maximum points that you earn in this course. A scale of 93%, 90%, 87%, 83%, 80%, 77%, 73%, 70%, 60%, will be used as cut-points for the grades A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D respectively; an F grade will result if you score less than 60%.
- Homework will be assigned weekly, with due dates being given in class. No late assignments will be accepted for any reason. Assignments are to be neat and presented logically on loose-leaf paper. You are to show all your work.
- Some homework assignments requiring computer based computations will be implemented using the R computing environment. This is a free open source computing environment that is available for the OS X, Linux, UNIX, and Windows platforms. The R computing environment can be downloaded from www.r-project.org
- Please note that a grade of incomplete (I) will only be considered for students who are passing the course, but cannot complete the course due to health or family reasons. A grade of incomplete will not be assigned to anyone who is not passing the course at the time of the request.
- There is no extra credit given in this course.

*Note that the instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus at any time.*
University Regulations

Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university.

A faculty member has original jurisdiction over any instances of academic misconduct that occur in a course which the faculty member is teaching. The student shall be given the opportunity to resolve the matter in meetings with the faculty member and the department chair. If the facts of the incident are not disputed by the student, the faculty member may elect to resolve the matter at that level by levying a sanction no greater than an F for that course. The faculty member shall notify the student in writing whenever such action is taken, and the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct shall receive a copy of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report indicating the final disposition of the case, which will be placed in the student's judicial file. In all matters where the charge of academic misconduct is disputed by the student or if the faculty member feels a sanction greater than an F in the course is appropriate (such as repeated offenses or flagrant violations), the faculty member shall refer the matter to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct making use of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report. Additional sanctions greater than an F in a course can be levied only through the University Judicial System. With regards to finding the student either responsible or not responsible for his or her action, the ruling of the Judicial Hearing Board shall be binding. In cases where there is either a finding of responsibility or an admission of responsibility by the student, any recommendations by the hearing board regarding the course grade are non-binding on the instructor, who remains solely responsible for assigning a course grade, consistent with the policies set forth in the course syllabus.

The university does not use a “cut” system. Each instructor decides whether to excuse class absences and determines how to permit make-up work.

If a student will be absent from classes for a week or more because of an accident, illness, or other emergency, instructors will be notified of the absence only if students or their parents request it through the Division of Student Affairs. Health Services will not release information about students unless they provide a written request.

Leaves of absence will be granted for volunteer services related to disaster relief in accordance with applicable Illinois statutes or executive orders issued by the State of Illinois in response to emergency situations. To initiate a leave of absence, students should contact their College Dean's office, or the vice provost (or the vice provost's delegate) for any student who has no college affiliation. Following the period of volunteer service, Registration and Records will facilitate re-enrollment of the student.

Students are expected to comply with each individual instructor's established attendance policy. It is recommended that students avoid registering for classes in which they would amass significant absences. In the case of an absence due to required attendance at a university-sponsored event such as a department trip, performing arts activity, ROTC function, or athletic competition, reasonable attempts shall be made by faculty members to allow the student to make up missed work. Students are responsible for completing the work assigned and/or due on the days they are absent for university-sponsored events. Both the sponsoring unit and the student should inform the faculty member as soon as possible in the semester in order for arrangements to be made for completing missed assignments, examinations or other required course work. The student is required to provide each instructor with an official notification in advance of the absence (e.g., a letter from the chair of the sponsoring department, the head of the sponsoring unit, or the coach).

A student who believes that reasonable accommodations with respect to course work or other academic requirements may be appropriate in consideration of a disability must (1) provide the required verification of the disability to the Disabilities Resource Center, (2) meet with the Disabilities Resource Center to determine appropriate accommodations, and (3) inform the faculty in charge of the academic activity of the need for accommodation. Students are encouraged to inform the faculty of their requests for accommodations as early as possible in the semester, but must make the requests in a timely enough manner for accommodations to be appropriately considered and reviewed by the university. If contacted by the faculty member, the staff of the Disabilities Resource Center will provide advice about accommodations that may be indicated in the particular case. Students who make requests for reasonable accommodations are expected to follow the policies and procedures of the Disabilities Resource Center in this process, including but not limited to the Student Handbook.

A wide range of services can be obtained by students with disabilities, including housing, transportation, adaptation of printed materials, and advocacy with faculty and staff. Students with disabilities who need such services or want more information should contact the Disabilities Resource Center at 815-753-1303.