

Intellectual Inquiry 240 – Statistical Reasoning
Spring 2018

Statistical Reasoning: Here's to Your Health!

Prof. Jan Minton
Office: 461 Trexler Hall
Phone: 2488
email: jminton@roanoke.edu

Office Hours: By appointment: Monday & Wednesday 3:00-4:30 and Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:30
Make appointments online at jminton.youcanbook.me

Course Description:

Statistical Reasoning: Students will gain an understanding of how decision making is accomplished using modern statistical techniques. Topics include descriptive statistics, graphical methods, elementary probability, estimation, and statistical inferences

Specific Area of Inquiry: Students will apply the techniques of data analysis to data sets and statistical studies that deal with health related issues.

Course Objectives:

Students will become savvy consumers of statistical information presented in the media with a particular emphasis on health related claims. In order to evaluate the merit of published information, students will learn how data should be summarized numerically and graphically. Students will understand the power and, perhaps more importantly, the limitations of basing a health (or any type) claim on just a sample from the population of interest. Students will be prepared to analyze sample data sets and communicate appropriate conclusions as well as evaluate and critique published statistical findings.

Intended Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to ...

... use the methodologies of statistics to investigate a topic of interest and make decisions based on the results.

... use the methodologies of statistics to design and carry out a simple statistical experiment.

... use the methodologies of statistics to critique news stories and journal articles that include statistical information.

... articulate the importance and limitations of using data and statistical methods in decision making.

... write about course topics clearly and effectively

... interpret quantitative information related to course topic (health related issues)

Course Materials:

Primary Statistics Text:

Introductory Statistics by Illowsky and Dean

Download for free at <https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-statistics>

Other Readings on Hand-outs/Postings

Writing Reference – ONE of the following:

A Writer's Reference, Diana Hacker RC Custom Edition

OR

Easy Writer, 6e by Lunsford

Minitab Express statistical software package

Rental available at <https://estore.onthehub.com> (link also on Inquire)

Scientific calculator (not cellphone calculator)

Inquire course management system available through MyRoanoke

Attendance Policies:

Full attendance is expected. As stated in the Academic Catalog, “Every student is accountable for all work missed because of class absence. Instructors, however, are under no obligation to make special arrangements for students who are absent.” Also, anytime you come in late or leave during class you miss part of the course and you disrupt the educational experience for everyone else. Do this only in the case of emergency.

Overall Workload: In addition to the 3 hours of class time, you are expected to work outside of class for a minimum of 9 additional hours per week.

Tests/Exams:

There will be 6 tests on basic statistical concepts, techniques and readings. Make-up tests will be given only under *very* extenuating circumstances that prohibit you from physically appearing in the classroom.

Dates for tests and the comprehensive final exam are listed on the Course Schedule (link on Inquire)

Other Work:

In Class: This grade category will consist of quizzes, in-class Minitab exercises, and other classroom exercises. There will be no make-ups, but the lowest grade in the In-Class Work category will be dropped.

Daily Assignments: Assignments will be made following every class meeting. Some problems are strictly “practice” for which students check their own work and monitor their own progress. Some problems must be written-up and brought to class for grading and/or discussion. Selected problems requiring the use of Minitab Express will be collected for grading. Occasionally students will complete problems in the form of an Inquire Quiz. Students are expected to complete all daily assignments whether graded or not. All daily assignments will be posted on Inquire along with any particular instructions.

Class Preparation: Includes reading ahead, internet research, and instructor videos as assigned

Writing: Writings will be based on health related articles and issues that involve statistics. Requirements may vary and will be detailed for each assignment.

Statistical Project & Report: Design and carry out a simple study related to a health issue and analyze the results.

Public Service Announcement: (Small Group Assignment) Produce a video in the style of a public service announcement regarding a health issue. The message of the announcement must be supported by solid statistical research. The research must be mentioned in the video and justified in written form.

Inquire Policy

Students are required to be knowledgeable of all postings on Inquire. It is each student’s responsibility to consistently monitor Inquire for course information. This means every day!

Any assignment that requires an Inquire upload will not be accepted in any other form. Also, to receive credit for uploads, the file must be immediately readable on the instructor’s college computer. It is the student’s responsibility to make successful submissions. It is the student’s responsibility to resolve technology problems through the college’s IT department.

Academic Integrity The college policy is fully supported. All tests and quizzes will be closed book and closed And notes. Writings and reports must be in each student’s own words. All work done for grade **Electronic Devices** must be done individually unless clearly specified otherwise.

The use of any electronic device during a quiz or exam is strictly prohibited. Exceptions will be clarified on a case by case basis. **Any use of a non-approved device during a quiz or exam will be considered a breach of academic integrity.**

In-class use of cellphones/laptops/iPads/tablet computers is not permitted unless the instructor makes a specific exception for a particular class activity.

Co-curricular Requirement

The Math, Computer Science and Physics department offers a series of discussions that appeal to a broad range of interests related to these fields of study. These co-curricular sessions will engage the community to think about ongoing research, novel applications and other issues that face our disciplines. There is a link to the dates and times for these sessions on Inquire.

Members of this class are encouraged to attend all appropriate talks; however participation in at least one of these sessions is mandatory. A response form is available on Inquire. Within one week of attendance, students must upload this completed form on Inquire.

Grading Policy

Course Averages:

Test Average	45%	A 93-100	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69
Other Work	35%	A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66
Final Exam	20%	B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62
		B 83-86	C- 70-72	F below 60

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: The Inquire gradebook will be used for grade STORAGE only. Inquire will not be used in this course to calculate your official course average. Any averages you might see in Inquire for this course should not be trusted.

Note: Material, content, and scheduling are subject to change if deemed appropriate or necessary by the instructor.

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Target Course Schedule

Dates	Text Coverage	
January 15- January 29	Introduction	
	Chapter 1	Sampling and Data
	Chapter 2	Descriptive Statistics
	Chapter 12	Linear Regression and Correlation
Wednesday, January 31	TEST 1	
February 2 – February 12	Chapter 3	Probability Topics
	Chapter 4	Discrete Random Variables
Wednesday, February 14	TEST 2	
February 16 – February 26	Chapter 5	Continuous Random Variables
	Chapter 6	Normal Distribution
	Chapter 7	Central Limit Theorem
Wednesday, February 28	TEST 3	
Friday, March 2	Video Presentations	
FALL BREAK		
March 12 – March 19	Chapter 8	Confidence Intervals – Single Mean
	Chapter 9	Hypothesis Testing – Single Mean
Wednesday, March 21	TEST 4	
March 23 – April 4 (Note: No Class March 30)	Chapter 8	Confidence Intervals – Single Proportion
	Chapter 9	Hypothesis Testing – Single Proportion
	Chapter 10	Hypothesis Testing with Two Samples
Friday, April 6	TEST 5	
April 9 – April 18	Chapter 11	Chi-Square Distribution
	Chapter 13	One-Way ANOVA
Friday, April 20	TEST 6	

Monday, April 23

Review for Final Exam

Thursday, April 26

FINAL EXAM 2:00-5:00