

STAT 303 A, Spring 2018: Experimental Design

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Class Meetings	Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM in Life Science 527	
Office Hours	In an effort to be more available to students while also acknowledging that meetings occur in my schedule that are outside of my direct control, rather than specify office hours specifically, I have chosen to use the "You Can Book Me" online scheduling tool so that you can schedule an appointment whenever, and your appointment will be put on my schedule (this online tool uses my live availability). Note that I am <i>generally</i> on campus all weekdays from 9 AM to 2 PM and you are still welcome to stop by without an appointment, but I may or may not be able to meet at any given time. You can access the online scheduler at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• drtaylorofficehours.youcanbook.me	
Course Information	The objective of this course is to investigate techniques for designing effective and informative experiments. We will discuss statistical methods for analyzing data from various types of designs and determine in which circumstances each design is appropriate. In our discussion, we will encounter simple comparative designs, the analysis of variance, completely randomized designs, randomized block designs, factorial designs, fractional factorial designs, and Latin-square designs.	
Intended Learning Outcomes	By the end of this course, successful students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use statistical software to organize, describe, and screen data.• understand how to select an appropriate experimental design for a given set of constraints and goals.• articulate the importance and limitations of using data and statistical methods in decision making.• advise scientists how to interpret their findings using statistical methods.• express themselves clearly and effectively in writing the concepts and language of statistics.	
Required Materials	Textbook: <i>Design and Analysis of Experiments</i> ; Douglas C. Montgomery; Wiley, 7th Edition; ISBN 978-0-470-12866-4 Technology: You will need a calculator to perform arithmetic calculations during tests and possible quizzes in class; you will also need access to MINITAB for larger projects. This can be obtained through computer labs in our building, and through rrcc.roanoke.edu . Optionally, you may also install R (and R Studio) to use for some of the assignments (you are welcome to use R on all assignments, but as class progresses, much of what we will need to do is much, much easier to MINITAB as opposed to R).	
Course Grades	The following table lists the weights for the various forms of assessment for this class.	

Assignments and Quizzes	30%
Tests (16% each)	48%
Final Exam	22%

A grade scale will be determined after final grades are computed, but will be no worse than the scale given below. Attendance and class participation will be considered when determining marginal grades.

		B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69		
A	93-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	F	0-59
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Participation

The key to learning a topic in mathematics is participation. We will strive to have an active, rather than passive, classroom environment. This means that questions are welcome in class, and the instructor will ask for your help in completing problems presented in class. Depending on your learning style, you may prefer to see a topic in class, and then read the textbook, or perhaps read the textbook before class and then see it explained further in class; either way you prefer, *reading the textbook* and paying close attention will be key in your success.

Assignments and Quizzes

There will be regular homework in this class, though it may not be given, or due, on a daily basis. A detailed list of homework that is assigned for this class will always be available on Inquire, but it will be announced and discussed in class as well. Unless otherwise specified, you are highly encouraged to work with your classmates on the homework problems; discussing mathematics and statistics with each other is a highly valued skill by future employers! What you turn in to me, though, should be written on your own and not with others around.

Larger assignments will be given throughout the semester in order to give you the chance to apply what you have learned to problems that essentially live in the real world. That is, we will, at times, abandon the rigorous study of the theoretical background of the design of experiments in order to try out what we have learned on real world data answering real world problems. These assignments will be worth more than the ordinary homework.

There may also be written quizzes in this class. They may either be in-class quizzes or take-home quizzes. I may occasionally warn you about an upcoming quiz but you should be prepared to take a quiz on any given day. Staying current with the material and being active in class is a great way to avoid surprise quizzes!

Tests and Final

There will be three tests in this class along with a final exam. While the tests themselves are not designed to be cumulative, because of the cumulative nature of mathematics and its progression of material, mastery of previous material will be beneficial to success on future tests. Please take time to learn from your homework feedback and previous test feedback throughout this class. The instructor is always more than happy to discuss feedback in more detail.

Each test given will have an in-class component and a take-home component. Unless otherwise specified, the take-home component will be due at the time of the in-class portion of the test. More information about each test will be given as the date for those tests approaches. Unless possibly modified by weather closings and/or delays, the three in-class test days will be **Friday, February 9, Friday, March 16, and Wednesday, April 18**. Any deviation from this schedule will be announced in class, distributed through email, and corrected on a revised syllabus on Inquire.

The final exam is scheduled, per the Roanoke College Academic Calendar for block 4 classes, on Wednesday, April 25 from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.

Other Important As a quick reminder, we do not have class on **Friday, March 30** in order to observe Good Friday. Dates Because of a conference I will be attending, we also will not have class on **Friday, April 13**.

Finally, as you are probably aware, the week of **Monday, March 7** through **Friday, March 11** is Spring Break, and we will not have class during that week.

MCSP Conversations

As you are aware, the MCSP 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 discipline. You are invited to be involved with all of these meetings; however participation in at least three of these sessions is mandatory. After attending, you will submit a one page paper reflecting on the discussion. This should **not** simply be a regurgitation of the content, but rather a personal contemplation of the experience. These reaction papers will be counted as a quiz and must be submitted using our Inquire website.

Attendance & Make- Up Work

Attendance is critical to the understanding of the material in the course; it is both required and expected. Any absence that is not discussed with the instructor *prior* to the missed class is considered unexcused. When absent, excused or unexcused, you are responsible for all material covered in class. You will not be allowed to make up any work missed due to an unexcused absence. Late homework will be accepted without penalty as long as the instructor has not graded the homework; homework turned in within 48 hours of the due time, after the homework has been graded, will be subject to a 50% penalty. Afterwards, late homework will be accepted for the purpose of providing you feedback only; credit will not be given for late homework beyond the 48 hours. Assignments and take-home portion of tests will have their own penalties for late work.

Study Room

The MCSP Study Room, Trexler 271, can be used by you and your friends to meet up so that you can work on homework together or prepare for tests. It is open virtually 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (very occasionally there are meetings in that room). Your student ID card should grant you access to Trexler Hall any time of day if the doors happen to be locked (use the card access point located by the first floor entrance facing the parking lot). Take advantage of this area and time, especially during weekdays when I am around (which is generally a lot)!

Community

Please feel free to become an active member of our department's community. Each of the three disciplines in our department has a student club and you should join! The Roanoke College Student Chapter of the Mathematical Association of America (or "Math Club" for short) meetings every other week, plays and learns about games and hosts evening events and the annual Pi-Day celebration! Membership in our Math Club also grants membership into the MAA itself; one of the premiere professional mathematical organizations in the world.

In addition, our department offers MCSP Tea every week so come by Trexler 271 to talk to and meet other students as well as chat with the MCSP faculty members in a casual setting! The time is yet to be determined and will be posted on flyers around Trexler Hall and also advertised in class.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity policies of Roanoke College. All work submitted for a grade is to be your own work! No electronic devices can be used during any class or testing period (this includes cell phones; please silence or turn them **off** before class). Note that looking at or using your cell phone during a quiz is considered a violation of Academic Integrity regardless of your purpose or intent in doing so.

Course Work Load

At a bare minimum, this course expects you to spend at least 12 hours of work each week inside and outside of class.