

# Statistics 110 – Principles of Statistics

## Fall 2006

### Course Procedures

**Professor:** Josh Laison

Old Music Hall 100, x3480, [laison@stolaf.edu](mailto:laison@stolaf.edu)

**Office Hours:**

Monday 10:30–11:30

Tuesday 9:30–11:00 at the Ole Store

Wednesday 2:00–3:00

Thursday 1:30–2:30

Friday 10:30–11:30

**Class Meetings:** Rolvaag Library 477

Section A: 11:50-12:45 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Section B: 12:55-1:50 Monday, Wednesday, Friday

**Text:** Stats: Data and Models, DeVeaux, Velleman, and Bock

**Course Web Page:** <http://www.stolaf.edu/people/jlaison/stats.htm>

**Grading:**

Homework Assignments (32)	25%
Final Project (1)	20%
Quizzes (3)	25%
Final Exam (1)	20%
Class Attendance and Participation	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**The Textbook:**

I have chosen a textbook that I believe is readable, and in fact interesting to read. I will ask you to read portions of the text for homework each night. I encourage you to do this. It will help your understanding of the material, and you might actually enjoy it! In addition, I will hold you accountable for material assigned as reading in the text, even if it is not discussed in class.

In addition, the textbook comes with a supplementary CD. This CD in fact contains a whole additional statistics textbook, called ActivStats. It contains audio and visual components which cover every topic that we will cover in class. If you are ever confused about a particular topic, I encourage you to try running the corresponding section on the CD. It can be a valuable study tool, and if you have purchased the book new, you have already paid for it.

## **Minitab:**

We will be learning how to use Minitab, a computer software package designed to make the computational aspects of statistics easier. I will be assigning one or two homework problems in each homework assignment to help you learn to use it, and I suggest that you use it on whatever homework problems you like. Although Minitab may be a little foreign at first, the more you use it, the more helpful it will be, and it will continue to be helpful to your analysis of data in other courses after this one.

## **Homework Assignments:**

Homework will be due every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday by 4:30 PM, starting Wednesday, September 13, and should be turned in to the class homework box adjacent to my office.

I encourage you to talk to me, to the evening mathematics tutors, and to each other about the homework problems. However, I ask that when it comes time to write down your solutions to the homework problems, you do so on your own. Failure to do this constitutes a violation of the honor code (see below).

## **Final Project:**

The final project will give you a chance to apply your newly acquired statistics skills to carry out and analyze your own experiment. You will be working with two partners. Your group will turn in a single project and each member of the group will receive the same grade.

There are three components to the final project. The first will be an oral proposal given by your group to me in my office. I will make a sign-up sheet available for each group to schedule a meeting.

The second component will be a paper that your group will submit on Friday, December 8. It will be your job to explain your experiment and accompanying analysis in a clear and convincing manner. **Your grade will be based on both presentation and mathematical correctness.** A well-designed but poorly explained experiment is just as bad as a poorly designed one.

The third component will be a poster session on the day the paper is due. The group will be responsible for designing an attractive poster and explaining their results to their classmates and other poster session attendees.

## **Late Assignments and Missed Classes:**

1. Do not turn in late assignments.
2. Do not miss class.
3. If for some reason you are unable to attend class or turn in an assignment, please let me know *as soon as possible*, preferably *before* the missed class or assignment. The longer you wait to tell me, the less sympathetic I will become. The worst is to never tell me about it at all.

**Honor Code:**

**on homework:** You may, and are encouraged to, discuss the homework with anyone, get help from Minitab, graphing calculators, your textbook, etc. However, your submitted written work should be your own.

**on the final project:** The members of the group should contribute equally to producing the final product. This applies to the proposal, the paper, the poster, and participation in the poster session.

**on quizzes and exams:** The resources that you may use on each exam will be different, and will be specified on the exam and earlier in class by me. You will never be allowed to receive aid on the exam from others.

**Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with Student Disability Services (see Ruth Bolstad, Student Disability Services Specialist) located at the Academic Support Center in Room 1 of the Old Main Annex. All such discussions will be confidential.