COURSE: STA 2023-U09 Statistics for Business and Economics, fall 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. McGuckian [Pronounced (Mick-Guck-in)]

PHONE: 305-348-2741  MY EMAIL: mcguckd@fiu.edu

DEPARTMENT: Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences

OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11:00 - 11:50 and 1:00 – 1:50 in DM 406B or by appointment (note: I am available at more times than these, just ask).

TEXTBOOK: I do not require a textbook for my course. Detailed notes and the homework for the course can be found here: Click STA 2023.

OBJECTIVE: This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with an introduction to some of the methods of statistical estimation and inference.

Statistics is widely used in business, government, and academia to make decisions based on quantitative reasoning. It gives the practitioner quantitative methods to estimate the value of, and to make inference about, important attributes of the population being considered. This course will lay the foundation for more in-depth study of statistical methods, or simply provide the student with a basic understanding of how statistics is used to aid the decision making process. Prerequisite: High School Algebra

CONTENT: The content for this course may be found in the course syllabus, which can be downloaded at: FIU Statistics Courses.

HOMEWORK: Homework is not graded, nor is it collected. However, it must be completed to do well on the exams. You learn from doing the homework.

EXAMS: There will be three exams and a cumulative final exam (all equally weighted at 100 points). Exams are timed; late submissions will receive a zero. A missed exam will result in a zero for that exam. There are NO makeup exams, and everyone must take the final. If your final exam grade is higher than the lowest of your first three exam grades, I will double your final exam grade to replace the lowest test grade. If you have missed one exam the final will be doubled to replace that missing grade. Therefore, if you have more than one emergency during the term that causes you to miss more than one exam you are encouraged to drop the course.

SCHEDULE: Click Tentative Schedule

GRADING: The sum of the points earned on your four exams will make up your overall grade. The scale will be based on the following totals:
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<th>Required Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>237</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>213</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>305</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>185</td>
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Please note that I do not issue grades of incomplete, and I cannot withdraw students. It is your responsibility to withdraw yourself if you are not doing well in the course or you must stay in the class and take whatever grade you earn.

CALCULATORS: Students may only use standard/basic or scientific calculators (no cell phones—they are not allowed out of your bag during class).

GET AN A!: This section explains how to study in, and succeed in, a math class.

Step 1: Review the in-class examples before starting your homework.

Step 2: Complete the homework on schedule.

Step 3: Get help on what you couldn't do in the homework.

Step 4: Review before the exam, do not cram!

Repeat this for 16 weeks and enjoy the A on your transcripts forever.

ERRORS: I return all exams to you and post the scores. You are ultimately responsible for making sure that the exams have been accurately scored and recorded in my gradebook. This goes for any additional assignments or extra points given. There is a two-week statute of limitations on these corrections. If you do not collect your exams in class or bother to review them in a timely fashion (within two weeks), any errors will remain a part of the permanent record. The same limitation applies to any other activity that is awarded points in the course. Be diligent about tracking your points.

I would like to apologize in advance for the sections that follow. Ninety percent of college students do not need to be told the information contained below, but for the handful that are under the delusion that they deserve special treatment, I must include it.

DISHONESTY: Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty is strictly forbidden in this class. If I find out that an exam turned into me is not the work of the sole person that has his/her name at the top of the page, I will issue a zero grade for the course, and the student may be subject to further disciplinary action. Also, it is your responsibility to keep any returned examination papers in the event that you believe a grade was misreported.
COMMON ISSUES: Statistics can be a challenge which means you will need to work at it. Your grades are based on your exams and nothing else. Everyone should have and will have the same opportunities in the course. This means you cannot ask me for individual extra credit assignments, and I cannot change your grade or give you extra points. Finally, telling me how important it is that you pass this class doesn’t change any of the above principles. Everyone who takes this class feels like it is imperative that they pass. Your grade is not based on your individual circumstances, only your performance. If I were to grant you special treatment I would be treating you differently. Of course you don’t want me to treat you differently if it goes against you. Realize that if I am helping you out and not the others, the others are being treated differently (but for the worse).

LETTERS: If you are thinking of having me write you a letter of recommendation, please understand that I will not write a letter for a student that I do not know. Don’t assume that just earning an A in my class means that I am willing to vouch for you in a letter of recommendation. You must stand out in my mind, so participate, visit during my office hours, … Finally, if you want a letter from me, be proactive, I am not in town during the summers, so ask for the letter during the fall or spring semester—not during the summer.

V. SIGNATURE: By continuing in this course, you are affirming that you will never ask me for special consideration regarding exams, assignments, make-ups or your final grade. That final grade will be based on the scale above (note: 237 points is not 238 points which means it is not passing—close doesn’t count here). By staying in this course, you are stating that you clearly understand that there are no make-ups unless you have documentation verifying an unforeseen unpreventable emergency on or just before the day of the exam. Finally, you are also stating that you are aware that this syllabus and our accompanying tentative schedule is subject to change as needed to accommodate unforeseen issues that arise during the term. These changes will be announced in class, so it is important that you do not miss class or those announcements. This outline of the course and its accompanying tentative schedule are not intended to be comprehensive. Some policies and standards of conduct are assumed, so even if not explicitly stated here, you will be held to those standards. You should always be polite, respectful to your fellow classmates, and follow directions. If you do these things, the semester will be a successful one.