ILRST/STSCI 2100 Syllabus

Instructor

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Teaching Assistant

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Administrative Details

This course runs through the 2017 Winter Session, which is December 26, 2016 - January 21, 2017. The first assignment is given December 26, and the final exam is due at midnight on January 21.

There is a specialized email for the course (ilrst2100@cornell.edu), which all of the course staff regularly checks.

The Cornell course ID is 350154. This should be used when formally enrolling in the course.

Course description

In this course you will acquire a working knowledge of basic statistical methods for analyzing and understanding data. Topics covered:

- descriptive statistics and graphical summaries
- data collection principles
- probability
- sampling distributions
- confidence intervals
- hypothesis testing
- analysis of categorical data
- simple linear regression
This course is administered via MyStatLab online platform. Students will have access to online tools such as multimedia textbook, adjustable study plan, practice exercises and video materials to independently improve their understanding and performance. There are no formal lectures in this course. People vary in their favored way to study and learn and in the degree to which such things as the multimedia materials are helpful, therefore students are encouraged to take advantage of the tools that work best for their learning style.

**Prerequisites**

You will need to know high school level algebra. Calculus is not required, although the mathematical sophistication it imparts may be helpful.

**Course Expectations**

The course is very fast-paced with new material being covered each day. You are expected to keep up with the pace of the course, which includes daily reading and homework assignments, and check MyStatLab website regularly.

**Textbook**

The textbook for this course is *Statistics: The Art and Science of Learning from Data, 4th Ed.* by A. Agresti and C. Franklin. The textbook is available online via MyStatLab, so there is no need to purchase a hard copy.

**Online Access**

The course materials are available online through MyStatLab, the course ID there is **baer23668** and the course name is **ILRST 2100: Introductory Statistics**. To register online and purchase the course materials, click on the "Student" tab under the Register heading, enter **baer23668** in the course ID box and click "Continue". Click "Create" to set up your account and enter the required information. More detailed registration instructions can be found online at [http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/students/get-registered](http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/students/get-registered). Make sure to gain access to the course website before the course start date, December 26, 2016.

**Communication**

All important information will be posted via announcements on MyStatLab website. You are encouraged to use the Discussions board to ask questions about the homework assignments and the course material. The best way to contact me regarding the homeworks is to use "Ask My Instructor" button in the homework menu of the website.
Homework

We will have daily homework assignments, which are submitted via MyStatLab platform. No late homeworks will be accepted for any reason. The lowest homework score will be removed before the calculation of your final grade.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on homeworks (30%), the midterm exam (30%) and the final exam (40%). Study plan and practice quizzes available from the MyStatLab website do not affect your grade. Additionally, the need to graduate on time, stay in school, play sports, transfer credit, maintain a scholarship, etc, do not affect your grade.

Your final letter grade is determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>[96, 100]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>[92, 96)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>[88, 92)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>[84, 88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>[80, 84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>[76, 80)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>[66, 76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>[56, 66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>[0, 56)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For instance, a numerical grade of 79.8 corresponds to a letter grade of B−, and a numerical grade of 80.1 corresponds to a letter grade of B.

If all of the following three conditions are met, your grade will be raised to the next higher letter grade (e.g. from B- to B):

- Your grade is within a percentage point of the next higher grade. (e.g. a numerical grade within [79, 80) is within a percentage point of the letter grade B.)
- At least one of your exam grades is at the desired level, as determined by the percentage scale above.
- You received credit for all of the homeworks and exams.

These conditions must be met exactly. If any of these conditions is not met, then your grade will not be raised.

It’s not fair for me to extend privileges to one person that I do not extend publicly to everyone. Therefore, individuals will not be allowed to do extra credit work, redo an exam, or redo homework to improve their grades.
**Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to adhere to the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Students must in no way misrepresent their work, fraudulently or unfairly advance their academic status, or be a party to another students’ failure to maintain academic integrity. The full Code of Academic Integrity may be found at [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm).

**Disability Accommodation**

It is Cornell policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, or systemic) that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Student Disability Services and their instructors for a confidential discussion of their individual need for academic accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in 420 CCC (Computing and Communications Center). Staff can be reached by calling 607.254.4545.

**Comments or complaints**

If you have any comments or complaints about anything connected with the course, please let me know!