

STAT201 Spring 2013 Syllabus

You should be enrolled in STAT201 sections 004 and R10. This is a 3-credit class.

Prerequisite: Mathematics placement exam or one credit of 100-level mathematics.

Time and location: Clark C 146, MWF, 2:00pm – 2:50pm, Jan 23rd to May 10th

Instructor: Ben Prytherch

Email: prytherc@stat.colostate.edu

Office: Room 302 of the Statistics building

Office hours: 12pm-1:50pm Mondays and 3pm-5pm Thursdays in the TILT building (grand hall). I am happy to meet outside of office hours as well; just email me or talk to me after class. You are also welcome to attend the office hours of other STAT201 instructors; see RamCT for the full schedule for all STAT201 sections.

Text and class notes:

The text is Statistical Ideas and Methods, by Jessica Utts and Robert Heckard. **The text is not required.** I will not be assigning readings or problems from it, but you may find it useful as a supplemental resource.

General class notes will be posted to RamCT ahead of time. These notes outline the material we will cover, but you should still take your own notes in class. You might find it useful to print out the notes from RamCT and take your own notes beside them.

Homework/WebAssign:

Homework will be done through the WebAssign website. See “Register for WebAssign” on the RamCT page for this class for the details. Make sure you get registered as soon as possible, and let me know if you have any difficulties.

Calculator:

A graphing calculator (TI-83 or higher) is required. If you have another calculator that you prefer and that can compute standard deviations, probabilities based on the standard normal and t distributions, and linear regression coefficients, you are free to use it. I will be giving instruction on how to do all of these things using a TI calculator; if you use something else it is up to you to figure out how to work it.

Attendance:

I don't take attendance, but you'll have a tough time passing if you don't come to class. If you do miss class, try to get the notes from another student.

Class rules:

Don't cheat; don't be disruptive. The CSU honor pledge is “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance”. For more information, see <http://tilt.colostate.edu/integrity/honorpledge> and section 1.6 of the general catalog: <http://www.catalog.colostate.edu>.

Course goals:

After this class you should have an understanding of basic statistical concepts and procedures that are commonly found in research, with graphical displays, confidence intervals, and formal tests of significance being the most important. More generally, I hope that you'll be prepared to understand and critique the more everyday sorts of statistics that we see in the popular media and hear in casual conversation. Being able to critically assess the statistical claims made by others is a skill that will help you not just in college, but in everyday life as well.

Assessments and grading structure:

Homework (WebAssign)	20%
Labs:	20%
Quizzes:	15%
Mid-term Exams:	30%
Final Exam:	15%

Homework will be posted regularly on WebAssign. I'll announce new assignments in class and via email. You are welcome to work together on homework assignments, but be aware that the numbers you see in your assignments will likely be different than those of your classmates, meaning your answers may also be different.

This should go without saying, but please complete all of your homework assignments. I do not intend to drop any assignments or to offer make-ups. Getting even one zero on an assignment can seriously impact your final grade; it is the most common reason that students get lower grades than they ought to.

Labs will be done in class on Fridays. I'll put them up on RamCT ahead of time; please print them out and bring them to class. I will be there to help with labs during class time. **If you don't finish your lab by the end of class on Friday, it is due by noon on the following Tuesday.** As with homework, you are welcome to work together, but please turn in your own assignment, and don't copy a classmate's lab.

Quiz and exam times will be announced in class, well ahead of time. They will also be given on Fridays. The final exam will be comprehensive.

If you have a university excused absence or an unavoidable conflict on a quiz or exam day, **please let me know ahead of time.** Make up quizzes and make up exams may be given for legitimate reasons at my discretion; they are much more likely to be given if you contact me ahead of time.

All grades will be posted to WebAssign; I will not be using RamCT to display them. Make a habit of checking your grades regularly to make sure they are correct, and contact me if I've made a mistake.

Workload:

You should plan to spend about two hours working outside of class for every one hour in class. This includes time spent on homework, reading over your notes and/or the text, and preparing for assessments. Re-reading your notes is especially valuable; the concepts we cover are probably not going to fully sink in upon initial exposure.

Extra help: I strongly encourage you to attend office hours or to contact me if you have difficulty with the material. My job is to help you to understand statistics as well as possible, and I am flexible with meeting times. Another good resource is the free open tutoring hours in TILT, which run from 5pm til 10pm Sunday through Thursday. See <http://tilt.colostate.edu/learning/tutoring/artSciences.cfm> for more information.

If this isn't enough and you need extra individual tutoring, you can find a list of available tutors at <http://www.stat.colostate.edu/statacademics/stattutors.html> - be aware that these tutors charge an hourly fee.

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, let me know. See <http://rds.colostate.edu/> for more information.