Econ BC2411 Statistics for Economics

Professor Reback, rreback@barnard.edu, Lehman 013, M 2-2:30; W 10-11:30

Teaching Assistant: Melisa Morales, mdm2181@tc.columbia.edu, Lehman 021, M 3-4:00pm and by appointment

Final Exam is scheduled for Friday Dec 18th from 9 AM to Noon. In ***Milbank 202*** NOT in the regular classroom. There will NOT be any alternative times given for the final exam. (Sorry, I know all of the exams are late this year but there’s nothing I can do to change the time.)

Learning Objectives  Students successfully completing this course will:

- demonstrate an ability to make inferences about an entire population using data from a sub-sample.
- calculate and interpret descriptive statistics about variables, including their means, medians, standard deviations, and correlations.
- create figures and charts that clearly provide relevant information about data sets.
- construct empirically testable hypotheses of theoretical predictions from microeconomics or macroeconomics.
- know that data is the plural of the word datum so that this sentence is the only one that should have "data is" in it.

Required Readings

The Syllabus lists the required readings from the Moore/McCabe/Craig text (Introduction to the Practice of Statistics, 8th Edition). To get the most out of lectures and to perform well on in-class problems, you are expected to read the appropriate passages *before* you attend the relevant lecture. You do not need the CD that accompanies the textbook, so feel free to buy or rent a used copy. Note that there is an 7th Edition recently published as well; you may purchase a used copy of that, but you’ll need to compare it with the 8th Edition side-by-side to find the section numbers and page numbers that correspond with our syllabus.

Discussion Sections

You must register for one of the two discussion sections: Tuesday 5:10-6 or Tuesday 6:10-7 in Lehman 18. During discussion sections, the teaching assistant will either: (a) go over solutions to the suggested problems ahead of a quiz, (b) go over new problems that reinforce a recent lecture, or (c) provide Excel and Powerpoint support/assistance for consulting project work. During the following days, attendance at discussion section times will be mandatory-- used to allocate time to Excel work and the group consulting project: Tuesdays Oct 6, Oct 20, Nov 10, and Dec 8

Grading

Your course grade will be the higher of:

(a) 50% Final Exam, 20% Quizzes (Best 4 out of 5), 15% In-Class Group Problems, 15% Consulting Project

(b) 40% Final Exam, 30% Quizzes (Best 4 out of 5), 15% In-Class Group Problems, 15% Consulting Project

- **Quizzes** Will be 45 minutes long on designated days. Followed by a 5 minute break and then 25 minute review of solutions. No make-ups given, but your lowest score is dropped.
• **In-Class Group Problems** Any lecture marked with * in the syllabus will include in-class group multiple choice (scratch off) problems following the lecture. Correct answers on the first try will be awarded 2 points; correct answers on the second try will be awarded 1 point. Group assignments will rotate periodically. If a group member is absent that day, then they still earn the group’s score. Occasional absences are fine, but class members who are routinely absent will end up being assigned to the same group together.

• **Consulting Project** You will have a permanent group for your consulting project, which will culminate in group presentations on the final day of class. Attendance is mandatory as all group members must participate.

**Excel Tips**

If you need any tips/help/tricks for Microsoft Excel, then I encourage you to use Barnard’s Empirical Reasoning Lab’s tutorials:

[http://erl.barnard.edu/wbr/tutorials](http://erl.barnard.edu/wbr/tutorials)

They have special instructions for Excel for Mac too!

If you prefer video tutorials, then check out the numerous Excel tutorials at:


**Who Should Enroll**

For all students, you **cannot receive college credit for both this course and one of these other 4 introductory statistics courses** considered somewhat equivalent: STAT W1111, PSYC BC1101, BUSI G6014, STAT W1211. Columbia College students are welcome to take this course but are not permitted to do so if they are/will be Economics majors, because the Columbia Economics major requires a different introductory statistics course and students may not take both.

**Honor Code** The Honor Code will be **strictly enforced**. The Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by refraining from every form of dishonesty in our academic life. We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present oral work or written work which is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor. We consider it dishonest to remove without authorization, alter, or deface library and other academic materials. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

The Honor Code booklet is distributed to all new students and available from the Dean of Studies Office.

**Accommodations** Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Disabled students who need test or classroom accommodations must be registered in advance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in 105 Hewitt.