Professor:
Mark Rizzardi, Department of Mathematics, Humboldt State University

Email:
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MyStatLab and course ID:
Site: www.mystatlab.com
Course ID: rizzardi48164

General information:
This online Statistics 108 course is an 8 week course. Each week there will be assigned readings, required forum postings related to the readings, chapter homework problems, and a quiz. The examination for week 8 will be the course’s final exam. The dissemination of course information will use Humboldt State’s Moodle platform which is accessible through myHumboldt (humboldt.edu/myhumboldt).

Homework, quizzes, and final exam will be performed online in Pearson Education’s MyStatLab (www.mystatlab.com) which you are required to purchase. MyStatLab is bundled with our text if you purchase it through the HSU bookstore.

There will be weekly labs that will require you to perform data analysis and/or simulations and write short reports which will be turned in as pdf files. Data analysis will be performed using MyStatLab’s StatCrunch.

THIS IS AN ONLINE 4 UNIT SEMESTER COURSE TAUGHT IN EIGHT WEEKS. There are challenges and advantages which come from this online medium and accelerated format. It will require discipline in keeping up with your course work, especially in light of you having other courses. (Likewise, the instructor will be challenged keeping up with grading forums and labs.) I will send you many email reminders about deadlines. The first four chapters will feel relatively easy and then the difficulty of the material will quickly ramp up through week 7. Be aware that this class will hit its peak demand on your time during the midterm period of your other classes. An advantage of the eight week format, however, is that it will be completed by the time your other classes are hitting their peak demand on your time.

Communication with the professor:
Questions about course material should be posted in the Moodle Homework or Lab Questions Forums. Questions particular to your status in the course should be emailed directly to Professor Rizzardi at Rizzardi+stat108@humboldt.edu. (The +stat108 suffix adds a label to your email within my Gmail account, thus lessening the likelihood of being lost among other university emails.) Inquiries will be responded to within one business day – feel free to email me again if you don’t get a timely response.

I will also be holding in-person on-campus office hours in BSS 336. Tentatively they will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30 and Thursdays 10:00-11:50. Up to date office hours times will be posted at http://users.humboldt.edu/rizzardi/hours.html. Furthermore, if necessary, I can also be reached by telephone at (707) 826-4951 or a special appointment can be made.

Course Goals & Learning outcomes:
Learn skills necessary for effective basic data analysis to facilitate decision-making and increase quantitative literacy. Elementary probability and statistical concepts are emphasized to provide an understanding of the foundational ideas behind applied statistical estimation and inference. Concepts are reinforced and practiced via the use of the statistical software package StatCrunch and Java applets.

The course goals are:
1. Appreciate the importance and uses of statistics.
2. Learn how to summarize data and interpret basic statistical summaries.
3. Learn basic probability including combinatorics and probability distributions.
4. Introduction to fundamental statistical theory required to properly apply statistics.
5. Understand the ideas behind confidence intervals and hypothesis testing and learn how to apply these tools to simple data situations.
6. Recognize the necessity of proper sampling and experimental design.
7. Be able to comprehend and communicate basic statistical ideas used in academic journals.
8. Become familiar with a statistical software package which will provide the platform for learning other statistical packages that you may need to know in the future.

In addition, Statistics 108 is considered an Area B General Education course satisfying the "Mathematical Concepts" category. Upon completing this requirement, students will be able to: (1) use skills beyond the level of intermediate algebra to solve problems through quantitative reasoning and, (2) apply mathematical concepts and quantitative reasoning to problems. In other words, this course is more than just learning how to remember and plug numbers into equations - you are expected to think critically.

**Grading weights:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(lowest three homework scores are dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>(lowest lab score is dropped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forum postings</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes 1-7</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>(lowest two quiz scores are dropped)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Determining final grade:**

Typically, the traditional 90%, 80%, 70% are used to decide A, B, and C grades. Plus and minuses are used for grades within 2% of a decile. If, at the end of the course, I deem those cut-offs for a grade to be too severe, I may grade on a curve by choosing a cut-off of less than 90% for an A, etc. Essentially, an A is earned when you demonstrate a strong understanding of the material, a B is earned when you demonstrate good comprehension, and a C is earned for moderate comprehension.

**Text and software:**

All students are required to purchase an access card to Pearson Education’s “MyStatLab”. When enrolling in MyStatlab, the **course ID is rizzardi48164**. In addition, students should have access to a hardcopy of the “Statistics: Informed Decision Using Data, 4th edition” text by Michael Sullivan, III. It is usually more economical to buy the text and MyStatlab as a bundled package. The third edition of the text will also work, but then you will have to buy MyStatLab separately online, at mystatlab.com.

There are various applet simulations that are used in the labs and forums to help you understand probability concepts. The applets use Java. The university allows only certain trusted sites to employ Java on university computers, so I will be working with the university to give permission to selected websites so that you can run the applets from those websites. For your home use, I will be providing information in Moodle on how to go into Java and give permission to allow a site to use Java.

**Homework:**

Homework is necessary to help yourself understand the course material. It is important that you put much effort into understanding the ideas behind your solution rather than just mechanically going through the steps. Furthermore, it is critical that you keep pace with the homework and do not fall behind because the concepts behind the material build upon one another.

MyStatLab ([www.mystatlab.com](http://www.mystatlab.com)) will be used to collect and grade homework assignments. The **course ID is rizzardi48164** and will be needed to enroll in the MyStatLab component of this course. You typically get many tries to complete a homework problem up until the assignment deadline. Homework for each week will be due by 11:59 pm on the Monday immediately following the week that the material was covered. (An exception is made for Week 1 homework which will be due on a Tuesday because of Labor Day.) The week 8 homework, however, will be due at 11:59 pm, Thursday, October 16. No late homework will be accepted.

**Labs:**

Throughout the course, there will be an additional homework assignment that will be labeled as a lab. In a lab you will analyze data and summarize your results. The labs will involve the use of StatCrunch and a word processing editor that can import graphs and create pdf files. StatCrunch is built into MyStatLab. Lab assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the Tuesday immediately following the week that the material was covered.
Forum Questions:
Forum Questions provide a location for you to summarize your thoughts on the weekly readings and answer particular questions that I will post. You’ll also have an opportunity to read and respond to your fellow classmates. Forum questions are due by 11:59 pm on the Tuesday immediately following the week that the material was covered.

Weekly quizzes and final exam:
Weekly quizzes are used to assess your learning and to keep you on track. The quiz for each week’s material will be due by 11:59 pm on the Wednesday following the week the material was covered. So there will be a quiz due by each Wednesday night during weeks 2 through 8. The material covered in week 8 will not have its own quiz, but will instead be weighted more in the final exam. All quizzes will be taken through MyStatLab with a limited number of minutes allowed. Notes, videos, and software, etc. will be allowed, but you are not allowed to be helped by any live person. The honor system with regards to cheating is being used for these weekly quizzes. I reserve the right to have you confirm your understanding of the work you turned in, such as by an in-person or telephone interview.

The final exam will be taken at Humboldt State’s testing center or (tentatively) on Saturday October 18 in a proctored campus computer lab. If necessary, you may make other arrangements with me for a different location. The final exam can be taken during the window: October 17-24, which spans our weeks 8 and 9. I will provide more information later about signing up for a specific time to take the exam. The final exam might also include a paper-and-pencil component.

Academic Honesty Policy:
Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the HSU policy regarding academic honesty. Please read www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/academic_honesty.php. You are allowed to work in small groups on homework and lab assignments, but the work you turn in must be your own work and accurately reflect your understanding of the material. I reserve the right to have you confirm, possibly by an interview or proctored examination, that your understanding of the work you turned in.

Students with Disabilities:
Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in the Learning Commons, Lower Library, 707-826-4678 (voice) or 707-826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. http://www.humboldt.edu/disability/

Disruptive behavior:
Students are responsible for knowing the university policy regarding disruptive behavior (http://www.humboldt.edu/studentrights/attendance_behavior.php).

Add/Drop policy:
Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. http://www.humboldt.edu/extended/calendar/index.html