College of Sciences & Mathematics Class Syllabus / Policy Sheet

Fall 2017
MTH 320A
Statistical Methods for the Animal Sciences

Name: Greg Miller, PhD
Department: Mathematics & Statistics
Email: gmiller@sfasu.edu
Phone: 468-1860
Office: 312, Math Building
Office Hours: TWR 3:15-5:15, None on M & F.

Specific Topics Covered: STA 320 contains the broadest and vast array of statistical topics of any undergraduate course taught at SFA. Because of this, after STA 320 a student is ready for specific course in any of the major areas of statistics known as regression (322), nonparametrics (321), analysis of variance and/or experimental design (327).

Exams: There will be three closed notes exams. All exams take seven to nine days to grade and return. You will not get your exam back the lecture after you take it. The Final Exam is comprehensive and closed notes. You must take the final at the designated time. You cannot switch times.

Homework: Typically, there will be one to three homework data sets to analyze each week. They will be provided to you on handouts and/or on D2L. These problems typically involve a little bit of each of the following: writing, computing and calculations by hand. This is a course where there are a “few” problems that are typically long as opposed to “many” homework problems that are short.

The homework and notes from class form the basis for the quizzes (see below). You should bring your solved homework problems with you to class since the quizzes are open notes. Plus, we may talk over things about the homework problems in future lectures.

Software: We will use a variety of statistical software packages (mainly JMP & R). There will be no cost to you and I will tell you how to access them as we go along in the semester.

Quizzes: Most weeks in which we don’t have an exam, we will have a short (~15 mins) quiz at the beginning of class which tests whether or not you have been keeping up with doing your homework and studying notes. Some of the questions on the quizzes are VERY specific to homework answers. Some questions on quizzes are more open-ended and require you to apply what you learned by doing the homework in order to make a broad generalization.

For example:

a) What is the standard deviation for the sample of rabbits in Homework Problem 4.7?
Answer: You write down a number from your printout or hand calculations.
b) Considering the overall conclusions from Problem 4.7 and 4.9, what effects do the violations of assumptions have the analysis of variance procedures?

Answer: You write a paragraph based on what you learned by thoroughly doing the two problems.

Quiz and Exam Schedule:

Exam 1: Tuesday, September 26
Exam 2: Tuesday, October 24
Exam 3: Thursday, November 16
Final Exam: Tuesday, December 12 at 10:30 AM

The quizzes are announced one week in advance.

Grade Breakdown: Each Exam: 20%, Quizzes: 20%
If your grade on the final is better than one of the three regular exams (not quiz average), then the Final will count 30% and your lowest test score (not quiz average) will count 10%.

Preferred Method of Communication: If you cannot come by during office hours or talk to me before or after lectures, the preferred method of communication is via e-mail. Although frequently you will be able to get through to talk to me on the phone, I tend to answer e-mail messages with more regularity than I check phone messages. Often, I screen phone calls or disconnect the phone in my office altogether. However, rest assured that outside of class or office hours you will be able to communicate with me via e-mail. I can check these messages from both home and off campus and can often reply at hours that are not during the typical work day.

PLEASE ONLY USE THE E-MAIL ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE. I will not reply at other addresses which are posted in university literature.

Alternative Class Meeting Time (My Travel):

Due to my work with SFA Athletics (I do ESPN3 and radio for SFA Volleyball), I travel a lot during the Fall semester. This typically does not conflict with class times, but there are the occasional days where we will need to reschedule class due to a travel conflict. As a group, we will decide on an “alternative meeting time” and have class at this day and time ONCE A MONTH. The following days we will NOT meet and must be rescheduled:

Thursday, August 31 (to be made up on alternative class meeting day/time in September)
Thursday, October 12 (to be made up on alternative class meeting day/time in October)
Thursday, November 2 (to be made up on alternative class meeting day/time in November)
For Exam 3 on November 16, you will have someone else proctor the exam in my place.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the
components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

The circumstances precipitating the request must have occurred after the last day in which a student could withdraw from a course. Students requesting a WH must be passing the course with a minimum projected grade of C.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).