Course Module
Stephen F. Austin State University
MATH 1342-009 Introduction to Statistics
Math (Bush) 209 9:30-10:45 AM TR
ZOOM: Mtg#: 916 3071 2804, PC: 833943

Instructor
Robert (Bob) Henderson
Department: Mathematics & Statistics; Office: Math (Bush) 344
E-mail: hendersork@sfasu.edu
Phone: Office: (936) 468-1540; Cell: (936) 615-7796
BA in Math & History – Trinity University, San Antonio, TX (1978)
MS in Mathematical Statistics – Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX (1980)
PhD in Mathematical Statistics – Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX (1982)
MBA – University of Delaware, Newark, DE (1988)
Worked in industry for 27 years: ~6 years with DuPont as internal consultant for a variety of businesses and staff groups; then ~21 years in the semiconductor business, most with a supplier of a key enabling material for semiconductor production; and later with Samsung working primarily with engineers in process control efforts. The entire 27 years included many training delivery, as well as course development activities related to basic statistics, experimental design, and process control systems. Fall 2009 was first semester working at SFA.

Teaching Hours – TR 9:30-10:45AM; 2-3:15PM, 3:30-4:45PM
Office Hours – MW 10:00-11:30AM, 2:00-3:30PM and by appointment. During these times, you can also send me an e-mail at the e-mail address above, and I will send you back a ZOOM Meeting Number and Passcode.

Course Goals
Statistics is a subject that tends to evoke emotions for students. These emotions can run from fear and loathing to apathy, and there are the occasional students who are excited about the subject. However, the latter is generally not the norm. One of the goals of the course will be to change any primary negative emotion associated with statistics to one of at least respect for the subject, if not excitement, and, of course to nurture even greater enthusiasm for anyone already interested in the subject.

There is substantial evidence that statistics can be challenging for many students. Traditionally, a significant barrier to having students embrace learning about statistics has been the relatively large number of formulas involved. These are not going to go away, and there are many of them in the course material; however, it is NOT going to be a goal of this course for the student to memorize formulas. Students will have access to formulas for all work and exams, just as you would in any future employment.

My experience is that much of the challenge for many people with the subject of statistics is that the subject often requires us to think about things differently than we have before encountering this subject. Statistics is a subject that requires admission of ignorance, and this takes a certain level of humility, security, and self-esteem to do. Fortunately, it does not require an admission of complete and total ignorance, and certainly no one enrolled here at SFA would ever be so described.
However, it does require admission of ignorance about a specific question or set of questions, which are sufficiently important that effort to reduce our ignorance related to this question (or these questions) is deemed to be of some value.

In order to reduce the level of ignorance, often an experiment is run, an observational study is conducted, or a survey of some sort is initiated, all of which generate data related to the question(s) of interest. With the presence of data, there is always that lurking discipline of statistics, which is simply the art of extracting meaningful information from data.

Unfortunately, what you will find out in this course is that there are many ways to do this, and that rarely, if ever, will one approach provide the exact answer(s) to the original question(s). This can make the study and use of statistics frustrating for some. However, if the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the relevant data is done well, then knowledge will improve and the level of ignorance will be reduced. If done poorly, then the level of ignorance may actually be increased. Consequently, a second goal of this course is to provide the student with the knowledge necessary to understand when a statistical endeavor has been done well, and how such studies, even the well executed ones, may be lacking.

This course is titled “Introduction to Statistics”, and this is what it is – an introduction. You will not leave this course as a world-class statistician. I have a PhD in statistics and over 27 years working with data and statistics in industry and do not consider myself a world-class statistician. However, the desire is for each of you to leave this class with respect for the discipline of statistics (and perhaps some with a level of excitement about the subject), as well as an understanding of its limitations. In addition, you will acquire the background to be able to work with professional statisticians as a subject matter expert, including being able to converse with a professional statistician more easily, and ask pertinent questions about the approaches and assumptions being made in their efforts to help you address your question(s) of interest. Another take-away from this course would ideally be a healthy perspective on what can and cannot be learned from a specific set of data and or a statistical report attempting to summarize that data.

Text
None. The course reference materials will consist primarily of the Case Study Manual, as well as the Course Notes, both of which will be posted on D2L as discussed through the semester.

Computer Access/Skills
It will be necessary to have access to a Microsoft Office tools: PowerPoint, Word, and Excel. The Class Notes are all PowerPoint files, the Case Study Manual and most of the assignments will be Word files, and the Utilities to do calculations, the Data Sets, and some of the assignments and Class Exercises will utilize Excel files. Almost every workplace will work with these Microsoft programs, and generally expect employees to have competency in working with them when hired. Hence, gaining some experience in using it will likely be helpful beyond this course. In addition, it may be helpful to download the university version of the JMP software (available on MySFA) for work later in the semester; however, while the Case Study Manual will reference it a few times, this is certainly not necessary for this course.
Prerequisites
Students will be expected to have some basic math skills (enough to obtain an acceptable score on the Math element in the SAT or ACT), and some facility with college-level algebra will be helpful. Any familiarity with calculus would be an additional plus, but it certainly is not required.

Course Rationale
Data surrounds us from all media: radio, TV, internet, etc. Data can be collected, summarized, and interpreted as statistics. Decisions are often based on data and statistical summarizations of data. To help us better understand and live in our world, it is helpful to know something about statistics.

Across the domains of human knowledge, information is becoming more quantitative. A basic understanding of statistics is necessary to make some sense out of all the data. The use of statistics has increased in the workplace. Market research, analysis of business trends, manufacturing, and quality assurance all make use of statistical analysis. Statistics are also used both correctly and incorrectly in matters of political and public debate to achieve desired results without deliberately falsifying the data.

The course is designed to introduce the statistical methodology that might be encountered in any of the above situations or others. It is hoped that with this knowledge, the student will have some appreciation for how to critically evaluate the actual information conveyed by some of the more standard types of statistical analyses.

Course Overview
Week 1: Introduction
Weeks 1-3: Case 1A – Small Sample Proportion (Binomial Distribution)
Weeks 3-5: Case 1B – Large Sample Proportion (Normal Distribution, Confidence Intervals)
Weeks 5-7: Case 2A – Small Sample Population Mean (Descriptive Statistics, t Distribution)
Weeks 7-9: Case 2B – Large Sample Population Mean (Central Limit Theorem)
Weeks 9-11: Case 3A – Two Sample Means
Weeks 11-13: Case 4A – Correlation & Regression
Weeks 13-15: Case 5A – Two Sample Proportions
The above is a general plan, how the semester actually proceeds depends on many factors, but is most influenced by students asking questions in class about the assignments.

Course Student Learning Objectives
The ideas it would be expected a MATH 1342 student to successfully address at the time of course completion include:

1) Data from real-world processes exhibits variation. The strongest form of model for this variation is a distribution. As such, distributions, including those of frequent application are of importance in statistics.

2) Because the exact distribution of a population of values is rarely known, statistical science relies on sampling in order to investigate the distribution and its features.

3) We estimate the distribution of a population, or more often, specific features of populations (parameters) with appropriate and corresponding features from a sample (statistics).
4) Knowledge gained from a sample is imperfect. It is not possible to make definitive claims about populations from taking samples. It is, however, possible to provide (non-definitive) claims about populations with margins of error attached.

5) Non-definitive claims about populations can be sufficient for decision making.

6) Claims about populations must be made in recognition that the collected sample is one of many that were possible. As such, statistics vary from sample to sample and therefore have distributions themselves. The most important statistic whose distribution deserves study is the average or proportion (which is merely an average in disguise) of a sample.

7) Investigating the distribution of a statistic leads to the ability to create a margin of error to be provided along with any statistical estimate (confidence interval). This margin of error is intimately tied to two things: the amount of variation present and the size of sample taken.

8) Investigating the distribution of a statistic under an assumption about a parameter leads to a null distribution. The null distribution has information in it that allows an experimenter to assess how common it would be to observe the value of the statistic seen in the sample (p-value). The p-value facilitates a decision regarding the validity of the assumption.

9) Samples should be taken in a way that is representative of the population. Data from the sample should be summarized, described, graphed – generally - communicated in efficient, reliable ways.

10) Data can be of different types. As such, the way we describe and utilize data depends on this type. Descriptive statistic techniques and inferential statistics procedures are intimately tied to data types (students will be exposed to continuous and categorical data, to univariate and bivariate data and to statistical methods for each type).

Departmental Course Syllabus Link:
https://math.sfasu.edu/docs/syllabi/MATH1342Syllabus.pdf

About Assignments
Assignments will be communicated via D2L. Some assignments will be in the form of D2L quizzes, some may appear in Drop Boxes, and some may appear as stand-alone Word files to be downloaded, edited with your responses to the questions therein, and then e-mailed to me (preferably in Word format) at hendersork@sfasu.edu within 2 hours after the end of class on the day they are due. There will be assignments due generally twice a week. However, usually, only a subset of the problems assigned will actually be evaluated/graded.

For problems where written responses are requested, no credit will be given for an essentially correct answer when no explanation or information is supplied related to how answers were obtained. Since much of the grading will be focused on the steps and/or approaches used to reach a final solution, neatness will count. If the steps cannot be followed, or it is unclear how a specific step is reached in a given problem solution, then points will be lost.

Of the problems assigned for homework, it is highly likely only 1 or 2 (or parts thereof) will be chosen at random to be evaluated for each homework result. There generally will be approximately 15-20 homework assignments during the semester, and your best ~70-90% of scores will be used in the calculation of the homework grade.
There will be 7 formal quizzes assigned throughout the course, and again, there will often be multiple problems assigned for each quiz, but only 1 or 2 problems (or parts thereof) chosen at random may be graded for each specific quiz result. The best 5 of the quiz scores will be used in the calculation of the quiz grade.

There will be a project of some nature assigned later in the session. It will be a group project and details will be provided at a later date.

**Grading**

Final grade will be determined based on the following proportions:

- Homework (including Reading HW Review Quizzes) 30%
- Formal Quizzes 30%
- Project 10%
- Exams
  - Mid-Term 10%
  - Final 20%

Homework will be graded and returned as quickly as possible.

The mid-term will cover up through Case 2A, and the final will be comprehensive. Details on how these exams will be administered will be relayed closer to the actual event.

**Attendance**

Against general departmental guidance, I have set up synchronous ZOOM sessions for classes, and plan to record them. This is meant to be a means to allow students who absolutely cannot make it physically to class to be able to acquire the information conveyed during class periods. However, physical attendance is STRONGLY encouraged if at all possible. Since there are several in-class activities throughout the course, and the frequent assignments, accounting for 60% of the grade, will be assigned primarily via in-class communication (and the policy is to **not accept late homework**), it will serve the student to attend all the class periods and do all the assigned problems by their indicated due times. This is nothing more than is going to be expected of you at any place of employment where they expect you to show up and do the work every day.

**Academic Integrity**

The official policy of the school can be found in the linked departmental syllabus for this course; however, the ultimate defender of academic integrity is each individual student. In this class, it often will be helpful to work in small groups on the problems. Sharing ideas and helping each other with approaches to understand and solve the problems is not considered cheating or plagiarism. **Copying someone else’s results verbatim (or nearly so) is considered to be cheating (be warned that these situations are generally easy to identify, and both parties will be subject to the respective penalties).** You are encouraged to discuss the problems with others outside the classroom, but you are all considered adults, and until you provide evidence to the contrary, will be relied upon to set appropriate boundaries in how you work with others through the duration of this class.
**Course description:** Probability, random variables, mean and variance, binomial distribution, normal distribution, statistical inference and linear regression.

**Core Objectives (CO):**
1. **Critical Thinking** [CO 1]: to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
2. **Communication Skills** [CO 2]: to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication
3. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** [CO 3]: to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

**Credit hours:** 3

The following is an excerpt from SFA Policy 5.4:

The federal definition of a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates:

1. Not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or 10 to 12 weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time, or;
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as outlined in item 1 above for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

To this end, all students in courses offered by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics that wish to be successful should plan to spend a minimum of two hours outside of class for every credit hour associated with this course. Expected activities to be completed in the time outside of class include reviewing notes from previous class meetings, reading assigned course resources, completing all assigned exercises and projects, and performing periodic assessment preparation.

**Course Prerequisites and Corequisites:** See general course prerequisites.

**General Education Core Curriculum:** This course has been selected to be part of SFA’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives. Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment.

By enrolling in MATH 1342 Introduction to Probability and Statistics you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Mathematics Core Objective requirement.

The chart below indicates: (a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), (b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.
## Core Curriculum Objective Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective Will be Addressed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Case study 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td>Hypothesis testing in Case study 2A and 2B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
<td>Case study 2A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Approximate time spent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Descriptive Statistics [CO 1, 2, 3]</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Graphical Displays of Data</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Measures of Location, Dispersion, and Position</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sampling Distributions [CO 1, 2, 3]</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Random Variables and Samples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Binomial Distribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Normal Distribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Student's-t Distribution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Central Limit Theorem</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Statistical Inference [CO 1, 2, 3]</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Hypothesis Testing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Estimation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Point Estimation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interval Estimation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Simple Linear Regression [CO 1, 2, 3]</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explicit instruction in Critical Thinking, Communication and Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning is in addition to implicit instruction, modeling and practice that occur daily in the discussion of the bulleted content. This explicit instruction includes explanation of solving mathematical problems by thinking critically, communicating logically ordered solutions with complete and correct notation, and applying empirical or quantitative skills as appropriate to the problem.

### Student Learning Outcomes (SLO): At the end of MTH 220, a student who has studied and learned the material should be able to:

1. Exhibit an understanding of basic probability rules and concepts [CO:1,3]
2. Demonstrate an understanding of different probability models and ways they are used in statistical inference. [CO: 1, 2, 3]
3. Demonstrate an understanding of point estimation of population parameters. [PLO: 1,3]
4. Demonstrate an understanding of interval estimation about population parameters and inference that can be drawn from such techniques. [CO: 1,3]
5. Demonstrate an understanding of hypothesis testing concerning population parameters and inference that can be drawn from such techniques. [CO:1,3]

There are no specific program learning outcomes for this major addressed in this course. It is a general education core curriculum course and/or a service course.

Academic Integrity
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades (SFA Policy 5.5)
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. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

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.

Student Wellness and Well-Being
SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

sfasu.edu/math
Math 1342 – Introduction to Probability and Statistics
Syllabus Continuation

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**
The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

**Crisis Resources:**
- Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
- National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
- Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the [Student Conduct Code, policy 10.4](#)). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom.

*Date of document: 08/23/2023*