

MATH 171  
Statistical Decision Making  
Fall 2009

**Instructor:** Dr. Phillip Poplin

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**Office hours:**  $\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \text{M,W,F} & 10:00 \text{ — } 10:50 \\ \text{T,R} & 9:30 \text{ — } 11:00 \end{array} \right.$  and other times by appointment.

**Course Description:**

An elementary statistics course designed to show the student how statistics is used in problem solving and decision-making. Topics include measures of central tendency and variability; elementary probability concepts; the binomial distribution; normal distribution; correlation and regression; and hypothesis testing. Special emphasis is placed upon the proper use of statistics in real life situations. 3 credits.

**Text:**

The printed textbook is not required. You are required to purchase access to StatsPortal. You will homework and quizzes to submit on StatsPortal. StatsPortal have an electronic copy of the textbook available online, so that a hard-copy of the book is not absolutely necessary. Your purchase will depend on your comfort level using an online text.

**Title:** *The Basic Practice of Statistics*

**Authors:** D.S. Moore

**Edition, Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> edition, 2010

**Publisher:** W. H. Freeman and Company

**ISBN:** 978-1-4292-2426-0

**StatsPortal:** StatsPortal is required for this class.

**Calculator:** The TI-83+/84+ calculator is required. Learn to use your calculator and bring it to class each day. I will be using the TI-84+ calculator in classroom demonstrations. The less experience you have with a statistics calculator, the more important it is to have the TI-84+. **Calculators cannot be shared on quizzes and tests.**

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend all classes. You are expected to arrive to class on time, and be prepared for class.

Since class time is limited, only a limited number of examples and problems can be given and discussed in class. The text book contains many worked examples. Class attendance is not a substitute for reading the text. Attendance does not count toward your grade except as outlined in the college attendance policy:

**Attendance Policy:** The college attendance policy provides the following penalties. The final grade may be lowered by one letter grade if more than 10% of classes are missed. Absences in excess of 25% will result in an automatic F.

Turn off all cell phones. Your cell phone should be in your book bag and not on your desk.

**Homework:**

Homework is assigned daily. These problems will give you practice in the basic techniques of the course. Homework is your responsibility to do and ask questions when you need help. I suggest working in groups to help learn this material. Remember: it takes a lot of practice to learn any new material. You should attempt all of the problems assigned and ask questions about those you cannot solve, either in class or in the instructor's office. The Learning Center offers tutoring for this class. Dates and times should be announced by the second week of classes.

An untimed Homework assignment will be posted on StatsPortal after each class period. You will have two attempts for the Homework submission and I will keep the higher score of the two attempts. I will also assign a timed (20-30 minutes) Quiz after each class period. You will have one submission for each Quiz. The Homework assignment and the Quiz must be submitted before the start of the following class period. There will be no makeup homework assignments nor quizzes allowed. I will drop the lowest two Homework assignments and the lowest two quizzes at the end of the semester. The online quizzes and homework are Honor Code work.

**Makeup:**

Any work such as quizzes, homework, or class work, cannot be made up. It is my policy to give no makeup tests. An exception can be made in the case of a documented illness or an excuse by a school administrator. Note, however, that a makeup test is usually more difficult than the original test, no matter the reason for the absence. Arrangements for a make up test must be made **no later than the day after the test and before the original test is returned.**

**Academic Integrity and Honor Code:**

I support the Honor Code and I assume that you do also. Students are expected to be familiar with the Honor Code and follow it consistently. The Honor Code applies to all individual graded work. If you are in my class I assume the honor code applies to all of your work whether or not you have actually written and signed the code. Infractions of the Honor Code will be dealt with harshly.

**Grades:**

There will be homework, quizzes, a project, three (3) tests, and a final exam.

The apportionment of grades is

HW, quizzes, labs	23%
Project	7%
Tests	51%
Final Exam	19%

The final grade will be given as:

90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	below 60
A	B	C	D	F

**Note:** If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Note:** The last day to withdraw with a “W” is 12:00 noon on October 14, 2009.