

Probability and Statistics for Teachers
Math 5010, Section 30
Wednesdays 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.
Jordan High School: Room E113
Fall 2009

Instructor: Michael Purcell
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Office Hours: By appointment.

Text: Statistics: The Exploration and Analysis of Data
by Devore and Peck
Published by Duxbury
ISBN: 0-534-22896-8

I will provide a classroom set of textbooks for use during this class. These will be distributed at the beginning of class on Wednesday, September 30. We have borrowed these books from Skyline High School. It is unclear at this point whether or not Skyline will want/need these books to be returned at the end of the semester so please treat them gently.

Prerequisite: Solid knowledge of Calculus I,II, and III.

Holidays: We will have class during the university fall break (October 14). We will not have class the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (November 25).

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, cognitive, systemic learning, and psychiatric disabilities. Students need to contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to discuss any such accommodations that they may require for this course.

I understand that this class takes place late in the evening, when most of us have been at school/work all day, that it is a rather long class, and that most of the students in the class are coming directly from another long class. Given these challenges, I will try to make the class more than a weekly lecture during which the students take notes, then demonstrate their mastery of the subject on a few high-value exams. For this approach to be successful, however, I will need your help. Your involvement in the classroom projects is vital if they are to be sufficiently interesting for a five-thousand level math class.

Grading

Final Grading Scale:

100-93% A	86-83% B	76-73% C	66-63% D
92-90% A-	82-80% B-	72-70% C-	62-60% D-
89-87% B+	79-77% C+	69-67% D+	0-59% E

Homework: 60%

Homework will be assigned at the end of class and will be due the following week. I will grade the assignments and return them to you as quickly as possible. Because there will be no exams in this course, it is important that you complete all of the homework. I know that many of you are extremely busy, and I will do my best to accommodate any alterations of the homework schedule that you require. Let me know if you are unable to complete a homework assignment by the specified due date and we will figure something out.

Final Project: 40%

The single largest contributor to your final class grade will be a final project. This project can be done with a group (no more than 3 students per group) or individually. The purpose of the project is to encourage you to think critically about how statistical issues impact our daily lives. To that end, you will need to carry out a basic statistical analysis of some real world data and devise a strategy to explain what you and/or a student can learn from that data using the techniques we discuss in class. For this project, you will need to give a short (10 to 15 minutes) presentation to the class and submit to me a description of your efforts. We will further discuss the details of this project a little bit later in the semester, after we have developed some rigorous statistical techniques that you will probably need to use to begin your analyses.