Syllabus for Statistical Inference I (5080/6824)

Instructor: Ron Reeder, PhD
E-mail: ron.reeder@hsc.utah.edu
Course Homepage: math.utah.edu/~reeder


One-on-one tutoring: Many students taking this class hire a private tutor. Check the class webpage for tutoring options. If you're on a budget, consider chegg.com; it comes highly recommended, and it's practically free.

Office hours: I am available each day after class.

Email: I may send out email regarding homework, quizzes, exams, and other useful information. Email will be sent to your official university account. If you prefer a different email account, contact the campus help desk at 581-4000.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted online. The schedule will change to match the pace of lectures, and you will be responsible for ensuring that you are working from the most up-to-date version of the schedule. You may consider the homework and its due date final if you refresh the homework page within 48 hours of the due date/time. The answers to many of the homework problems are in the back of the book. Students typically work through the homework, one problem at a time, checking each answer with the solution in the back of the book. Detailed solutions will sometimes be posted on the class website. Each day that we have a quiz, the homework due that day will be collected (stapled to the back of the quiz). Homework will not be collected if there is no quiz. Only homework turned in on its due date, in class, with the quiz, will be accepted. Emailed homework, for example, will not be accepted. If you are going to miss class, however, you are welcome to have a classmate turn your homework in for you; in this case it need not be stapled to a quiz, but it will be submitted in class at the same time as the quiz.

Quizzes: We will typically have a quiz each day, and you must be in class to take the quiz; quizzes cannot be taken early or late. Quizzes are typically at the end of class, but they may be given at any time. Each quiz will be given twice, giving you two chances to get it right. The question for the second attempt will be similar to the first attempt but not necessarily exactly the same. Quizzes will be numbered, e.g. Quiz 1, Attempt 1 or Quiz 1, Attempt 2. If you get it completely right on either attempt, you will get 2 points. If you get it right on both attempts, you will still only get 2 points. Thus if you get 2 points on both the first and second attempt at Quiz 1, you will still only get two total points for Quiz 1. If you get it right the first time, feel free not to make a second attempt. The second attempt will occur two quizzes (typically one week) later. If you got it right the first time, you are welcome to make another attempt (just for fun). The higher of the two scores will be recorded. Solutions to quizzes will be posted under ‘extra practice’ on the website.

Exams: There will be 1 midterm exam and a comprehensive final. Tentative exam dates will be listed on the homework page after they have been scheduled. Exams will not be offered early or late. If you email me during the first week of class regarding a date that you will not be able to take the midterm, I will try to arrange the timing of the midterm so that you do not miss it. After the first week of class, dates that I have committed to not having the midterm will be in green font on the homework page. Unlike Quizzes, you will not get a second attempt at exams. The midterm will have 5 – 7 quizzes worth of content. This typically means 5 – 7 questions, although some may have multiple parts. The final exam will have 7 – 10 quizzes worth of content and will be worth proportionally more points. You will be given at least 90 minutes to complete the midterm and at least 2 hours to complete the final exam. If I am personally proctoring the exam, I will be flexible with the allowed time.
Honesty: On quizzes and exams, you may use only your pencil, the exam booklet, and your intellect. Using anything else such as a cell phone, notes, a book, or a calculator during an exam or quiz is considered cheating. Any academic misconduct may result in a failing grade and may be reported to the dean of students in accordance with Policy 6-400 of the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Grading Policy: No partial credit will be given because it is difficult or even impossible to do so in a completely fair way. If you are accidentally given credit for a wrong answer on a quiz, you will still not receive credit for incorrect answers to similar questions on the exam. If you are accidentally docked points for a fully correct solution, please talk to me. You are guaranteed a score in the A range if your final score is above 90%; similarly, you are guaranteed a score at least in the B range if your final score is above 80%, etc. A curve is usually applied which will improve grades to make the class grade distribution in line with historic averages. An estimate of the grade you are headed for based on the curve will be available on the grades page of the class website and will be updated regularly. You will be able to see the complete gradebook for all students on the grades page. However, names will be replaced with super-secret numbers. You will be given your secret number when the first quiz is returned to you. The secret number will be in the bottom right corner of your quiz. It is up to you whether you keep that number a secret or tell all of your friends. Homework numbering in the gradebook will match quiz numbering. For example, the homework submitted with Quiz 5 will be referred to as Homework 5, even if it is not the 5th homework assignment submitted.

Exceptions: A doctor’s note is sufficient in order to take an exam late. The doctor's note must be written on official letterhead from the doctor's office and must contain the office's phone number for confirmation. For possible exceptions not related to your health—such as a death in the family—please email me. Notify me as soon as possible about your circumstances. Exceptions for quizzes and homework are handled differently than for exams. Exceptions regarding quizzes and homework will be evaluated at the end of the semester; you will turn in a typed report with your final exam that indicates the date you missed, the date you notified me, the reason for the absence, and a list of what you missed. Note that you will not turn in the thing you missed; you are merely writing a report to tell me what you missed, why, etc. At the end of the semester, if an exception is granted, your total score (and grade) will be adjusted as deemed appropriate and fair. As with exams, a doctor’s note is sufficient to guarantee an adjustment for a missed quiz/homework.

Extra credit: There will be no extra credit.

Simplification: Simplification of your answers on quizzes and exams is not necessary. In fact, it’s often easier to grade when you write 5! than when you write 120.

Calculators: Calculators and computer software can be used for homework but will not be permitted on quizzes or exams.

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, cognitive, systemic learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services (162 UNION, 801-581-5020). If you require special accommodations under the ADA please inform me through official channels early in the semester.

Withdrawals: If you wish to withdraw from this class, you may check the drop / withdraw dates at the registrar's office.

Canvas: We will not use Canvas for this class.