Syllabus for Statistical Inference I (5080/6824)

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


**Prerequisite:** Grade of C or better in Probability (Math 5010/6805)

**One-on-one tutoring:** Many students taking this class hire a private tutor. Check the class webpage for tutoring options.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 and will result in a failing grade. Any academic misconduct will result in a failing grade and will be reported to the dean of students in accordance with Policy 6-400 of the Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities.

**Grading Policy:** A complete homework assignment is worth 1 point. A fully correct quiz is worth 2 points. 1 point may be awarded for a mostly correct quiz at the discretion of the grader. The midterm will consist of 5 – 7 questions, each graded analogously to a quiz. Thus the midterm will be worth 10 – 14 points. The final exam will consist of 7 – 10 questions and will be worth 14 – 20 points. If you are accidentally given full or partial 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 will be available on the grades page of the class website.

**Exceptions:** A doctor's note is sufficient in order to turn homework in late or take a missed quiz or exam.
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 not accompanied by a doctor's note 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.

If you receive 0/2 for an incorrect solution but feel that 1/2 is a more appropriate grade because the solution is mostly correct, you may submit a typed report with a full explanation of why you should be given a higher score. This will be submitted with your final exam. Be sure to include the date of the quiz/exam and any other information that will be needed in order for a reviewer to determine if additional credit should be awarded.

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.