

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE PROFESSIONS, NYU STEINHARDT
BASIC STATISTICS I: APSTA-GE.2085.001
TENTATIVE SPRING 2014 SYLLABUS
MONDAYS, 6:20 PM – 9:00 PM
12WV BUILDING, ROOM L111

Instructor: Danny Chan
E-mail: danny.chan@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Monday 5:10 – 6:10 PM, 3rd Floor of Kimball Hall, 246 Greene Street
Please make an appointment via <http://dannychan.clickbook.net>

Course Description: This is the first semester of a two-semester sequence designed to prepare students to use statistics for data analysis. The first semester serves as a foundation for the second, covering methods for displaying & describing data. Topics include frequency distributions & their graphical representations, percentiles, measures of central tendency & dispersion, correlation, & simple regression. The course will make use of SPSS, a statistical computer software package for the social sciences.

Textbook: Statistics Using SPSS: An Integrative Approach (2nd edition) by Sharon Weinberg and Sarah Abramowitz, \$70 (*In addition, SPSS 101 and Stat Tables 101 will be provided in PDF format*)

Computer lab: As a student in this class, you have priority access to the computer labs. The regular lab consultants often do not know SPSS, but they can answer system level questions about accessing SPSS, saving, printing, and opening files.

E-mail & NYU Classes: You should obtain an email account and check it at least once weekly. E-mail is the most efficient way to communicate with me. We will make use of NYU Classes in this class. You must activate your HOME account here at NYU before you can access NYU Classes.

SPSS: We will be using versions 11-22 in class and in the labs. You should use the graduate pack version of the software (instead of the student version). The NYU Computer Store offers SPSS license at a discount to NYU students (IBM SPSS GradPack 22 *Win/Mac* license \$90). You can rent the software at <http://www.onthehub.com/spss/> or download a 14-day trial version of SPSS at http://www14.software.ibm.com/download/data/web/en_US/trialprograms/W110742E06714B29.html

Grading:

Homework: Practicing what has been covered in class is essential to learning statistics. Homework will be assigned, collected, and graded each week. It is your responsibility to complete all homework assignments on time and to raise related questions in class. Late homework is subject to penalty. You may email/fax me the homework assignment if you cannot be in class for any reason.

Project: The project will provide you an opportunity to apply your knowledge in a meaningful way. You will analyze data using SPSS, interpret your results, and communicate your findings.

Exams: There will be one midterm and one final exam during the semester. Each exam will focus on roughly half of the materials in the course, but the final exam is cumulative. A formula sheet will be provided for the exams.

Attendance: Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your course grade. Please email me before class if a special situation arises.

Grade composition: Homework: ___% Project: ___% Midterm: ___% Final Exam: ___%

Tentative Course Schedule -- Spring 2014

Date	Topic	Work Due	Notes
1/27	Overview and introduction (Ch. 1)		
2/3	Examining univariate distributions (Ch. 2)	Homework 1	
2/10	Measures of location, spread, and skewness (Ch. 3)	Homework 2	
2/17	PRESIDENTS' DAY		NO STATISTICS CLASS!
2/24	Re-expressing variables (Ch. 4)	Homework 3	
3/3	Exploring relationships between two variables (Ch. 5)	Homework 4	
3/10	Review for Midterm	Homework 5	
3/17	SPRING RECESS		NO STATISTICS CLASS!
3/24	MIDTERM EXAM Includes ALL materials through 3/10		Project will be posted on Blackboard
3/31	Simple linear regression (Ch. 6)		
4/7	Probability fundamentals (Ch. 7)	Homework 6	
4/14	Theoretical probability model – Binomial distribution (Ch. 8)	Homework 7	
4/21	Theoretical probability model – Normal distribution (Ch. 8)	Homework 8	
4/28	Sampling, Central Limit Theorem (Ch. 9)	Homework 9	
5/5	Interval Estimation, Hypothesis Testing (Ch. 10)	Homework 10	
5/12	Review for Final Exam	Project	
5/19	FINAL EXAM Includes ALL materials covered this semester		