STAT 301: Introductory Probability and Applied Statistics
Section 1
Spring 2009
Dr. Melanie Autin (pronounced Oh-tan)
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Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:15 AM – 12:15 PM
or by appointment or capture
Class Meetings
MWF 12:40 PM to 1:35 PM in TCCW 301
Course Web Site
We will be using Blackboard® for the course homepage. Class notes, assignments, and
announcements will be
posted there (some announcements will also be sent to your WKU e-mail). Students should obtain notes and
assignments from this site prior to class each day. Go to http://ecourses.wku.edu and log in
(using your WKU email username and password); then look for “Prob/Applied Stat” among your courses. Information about
Blackboard® and other campus computing resources can be found at http://www.wku.edu/infotech.
Description
Prerequisite: MATH 126 or MATH 132. A calculus based introduction to applied statistics, with
emphasis on
analysis of real data. Curve fitting, probability models, estimation and testing for means and proportions, quality
control; use of computers for data analysis and simulation.
Optional Textbook
Technology
Each student will need a graphing calculator for use in class and for assignments. TI-83 Plus, TI-84, and TI-89
are preferred, and instruction for these models will be given. Cell phone calculators are not permitted for use on
exams! Statistical computing packages may also be used.
Academic Dishonesty
“Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that
portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without
possibility of withdrawal.” Although students may help each other on homework assignments, *individual* work is required on
exams and projects.
Cell Phones
Cell phones should be turned off or set to silent during class. A cell phone ringing during class is
considered
disruptive behavior, and punitive action may be taken against students who fail to comply with
this request. Cell
phones should also remain closed during class. If you are seen using your phone during class
(for text
messaging or otherwise), you will be asked to leave for the remainder of the class period.
Attendance
Attendance will be recorded each day, and regular attendance is expected. Attendance is used to help determine “borderline grades” at the end of the semester. The WKU University Attendance Policy (Web version at http://www.wku.edu/coursecatalog/index.php?subcategoryid=75) states the following in regard to attendance:

“Excessive absenteeism may result in the instructor’s dismissing the student from the class and recording a failing grade, unless the student officially withdraws from the class before the withdrawal deadline.” For this class, absence from more than 4 classes (whether excused or unexcused) will be considered excessive, and a borderline grade will NEVER be bumped up. The instructor will note students who arrive excessively late or leave excessively early; such instances will be counted as an absence.

**Student Disability Services**
In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**Graded Work**

**Exams** (18% each) Three in-class exams will be given during the course of the semester (one in each of February, March, and April). The exact dates will be announced in class and on Blackboard several days in advance of the exam. Make-up exams will be considered only in extreme (and excused) circumstances. Contact me before the exam if you feel that your situation merits a make-up.

**Homework** (17%) Homework will be assigned and collected regularly throughout the semester. Homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard and announced in class. It is your responsibility to print the assignment in adequate time to complete it before the due date. You may work with others, but each student is responsible for turning in a paper with sufficient work to support solutions. **If it is apparent that you simply copied the homework from someone else, the total grade of the papers will be split among those involved.** Grades on homework will be determined based upon correctness, but partial credit will be given. Late homework will not be accepted unless the situation merits, but no homework will be accepted after either the graded assignment has been returned or solutions have been posted. At most one late homework assignment will be accepted per student during the semester. The lowest homework grade will be dropped.

**Project** (9%) Statistics can be applied to practically every field. As a result, statistical analyses are prevalent in society. This project is intended to heighten your awareness of the use of statistics in the media and to
improve your critical thinking skills. You will be required to find articles, advertisements, and/or pictures that use some form of statistics. You will also critique the statistics used in that situation. Details of the project will be given during the semester, but you can start collecting these items now!

**Final Exam** (20%) A comprehensive final exam will be given on **Thursday, May 14 at 1:00 PM.**

**Grading Scale**
- 90% - 100% A
- 80% - 89% B
- 70% - 79% C
- 60% - 69% D
- 0% - 59% F

**Important Dates**
- February 2: Last day to add/drop
- March 9-13: Spring Break
- March 20: Last day to withdraw

**General Statement**
This class will contain material that builds on previous material covered, so DO NOT FALL BEHIND! If you miss a class, get the notes immediately. Understanding problems that I work in class and being able to work problems on your own are two completely different things. If you do not do the homework, you will find the exams very difficult. If you are having trouble with a topic covered, come see me as soon as problems arise (i.e., not the day before the exam). Office hours are for you, so do not hesitate to come see me (or make an appointment).