Desire and Determination Bring Any Goal Within Reach

Distance Learning

Instructor & Coordinator: Dr. Walid Sharabati (wsharaba@purdue.edu)
Office Hours: By appointment only.
TA: Mrs. Aparna Agrawal.

Textbook:


Course Website: http://www.stat.purdue.edu/~wsharaba/stat512.htm. This site will be used to provide you with information relevant to the course. Such information includes this page, announcements, lecture notes, homework assignments, reading assignments, data sets, dates of exams, and review sheets. Please check this site regularly for updates.

Blackboard Learn: A Learn site has been created for this course. Students enrolled in this course will automatically be given access to this site (“auto-populated”). The site is limited to enrolled students and thus will be used to provide restricted information such as grades.

Discussion Board: Use Purdue Mixable (www.purdue.edu/mixable) to post questions related to the course. I will try to address these questions in a timely manner.

Final Grade: Your final grade will depend on the following components with these proportions:

- Homework 15% (Roughly 7 weekly assignments)
- Exam 1 30% (Thursday, July 7, 2016)
- Final Project 25% (Due Friday, July 29, 2016)
- Exam 2 30% (Wednesday, July 27, 2016)

The percentage grades needed to achieve an A, B, C, or D will follow approximately the following scale: [90–100] for A, [80–89.99] for B, [70–79.99] for C, [60–69.99] for D, [0–59.99] for F. The minimum score needed for a given letter grade could be lowered if necessary but will not be raised. (I expect – but won’t guarantee – that the median final grade in this class will be an “B”.)

I do not offer pluses or minuses in this class nor do I curve the final score.

Examinations: There will be two midterm examinations. The first will take place on Thursday, July 7, 2016, while the second will be on Wednesday, July 27, 2016, both at 8:00 pm in MTHW-210. Both the midterm and final exam will have mathematical and conceptual components.

Exam Rules: There will be NO MAKE-UP EXAM unless there is an emergency in which case you are required to provide a proper documentation, please plan ahead of time. The following situations are the only legitimate reasons to take the make-up exam: sickness (official letter from doctor), death in the family, military service call, sports (need letter from coach). However, having a job interview, attending a conference, workshop, or contest, and traveling home
because the airfare is cheap won’t make you eligible to take the make-up exam. No exceptions to this policy.

Cellphones, iPads, Laptops or any device capable of wireless communications are not allowed during exams. Practice exams or homework solutions are not permitted during exams.

**Computer Project:** There will be a final individual SAS assignment worth 25% of your final grade, it will be assigned early in the semester and will be due in the last week of classes. Further details will be forthcoming.

**Mailing List:** A mailing list will be arranged for this course. I will send (very occasionally) email to this list with any special announcements or reminders.

**Grader:** All homework assignments will be graded by my teaching assistant, who will also help grade the exams. She will not hold office hours.

**SAS Computer Software:** We will use SAS 9.4 to perform data analysis in this class. The intent of using software is to allow the computer to perform routine calculations and graphing, while we focus on choosing the appropriate analysis tools and interpreting the results. Computer software is NOT a substitute for understanding the statistical methods, and you will not have access to a computer during exams. SAS is available in the Purdue computing labs. You may also obtain a copy of SAS for your own PC for class purposes free of charge by showing your student ID in STEW Building (Software Distribution) room G-31. You may also access SAS via the Remote Access page (http://goremote.itap.purdue.edu), more information is available on the course website. The only way to learn how to use SAS is to try it!

**Homework:** Homework will be due every week on Monday except for the last assignment. The homework assignment will be posted on the website approximately one week before its due date. The only way to submit the homework assignment is via Blackboard Learn. LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. Please make sure to submit your homework using the right assignment link; otherwise, it will not be graded.

Please do not pad your homework with endless printouts of SAS output. Only turn in those parts of the output that are directly relevant to your solution. You should edit any SAS output you plan to hand in by pasting it into an editor such as MS-Word, and getting rid of extra space or unnecessary output. It is helpful to circle or highlight the portions of the output to which you refer in your solution. As a rule of thumb, only hand in what you actually expect the grader to read. SAS output should be pasted into your solution as you are answering the questions. **Your SAS input file should be attached at the end of the homework.** The input is not given a grade per se, but it can be helpful to the grader in trying to figure out what you did wrong and in assigning partial credit.

Homework performs four vital functions in this course:

i. It helps you learn SAS, but won’t help you much prepare for the exams. The only way to prepare well for the exams is to read/watch the lectures and do the practice problems.

ii. It gives you an opportunity to practice what you have learned and to understand concepts by actually using them;

iii. It gives you feedback on what you understand and on what areas need more work;

iv. It contributes to your final grade.
You are encouraged to use homework as a learning tool. You may also wish to discuss homework with your classmates if you know any. Group discussions and study sessions can be a useful tool for learning. However, outright copying is unacceptable, as well as pointless, and will be penalized. A good rule of thumb is that it is fine to talk together about how to do a problem, but then go do it and write it up yourself, possibly comparing answers afterwards. **Do not copy another person’s SAS code,** but it is okay to ask someone to help you find your mistake. Remember that if you copy from a classmate without understanding it, only your classmate will pass the exam.

Some of these homework assignments are similar to problems from previous semesters and you may have obtained the solution from former students or online database. **If blatant copying is detected, all parties involved (copier and copied) will receive an (F) for the course.** My teaching assistant is very well trained at detecting plagiarized work, she discovered two cheaters just last semester. I take academic misconduct VERY seriously.

The first page of each homework set handed in must contain the following information:

i. your name
ii. the number of the homework set (e.g. Homework #2)
iii. Stat 512

This information is necessary to ensure that your grades are recorded correctly and that your homework is returned to you promptly. Remember that it is a challenge for both instructor and grader to keep track of 10 homework sets for 80 students throughout the course. The grader may also grade other courses, and we don't want to get them mixed up. Please make it easy for us to not lose your homework or grades!

**Re-grades:** Since the professor and grader are fallible human beings, occasionally errors will occur in grading. For this reason, students are able to request that such an error be corrected. Two types of error can occur. A **type I error** occurs if points are deducted for a correct solution. A **type II error** occurs if sufficient points are not deducted for an incorrect solution. Any request for a re-grade must be made **in writing** and must abide by the following procedure, or it will be ignored.

1) Attach a new piece of paper to the **front** of the work to be re-graded. This piece of paper should contain the following information
   a) the word "re-grade" displayed prominently
   b) your name and section
   c) which homework set or midterm is involved (e.g. Homework #6)
   d) the relevant problem number(s) (e.g. Problem 7.23)
   e) a detailed explanation of the suspected error ("Please look at problem 4" is **not** considered a detailed explanation).
   f) the date of resubmission

2) Print out the appropriate pages of the solutions from the web page or Blackboard, and circle the relevant piece of the solution. Attach this **behind** the work to be re-graded.

3) Give this packet to me, or put it in my mailbox. A verbal explanation is neither necessary nor appropriate since a) I won’t remember it, and b) the grader will do the re-grading anyway.

**No exceptions will be made to this policy.** The grader will be responsible for the re-grading and you will receive a written note from the grader explaining the outcome. I will review the grader's response before returning it to you, to make sure the problem was resolved. Re-grade requests may be submitted until the last week of classes, but you are encouraged to be prompt. If the above procedure is not followed, the re-grade request will be denied. Any rudeness accompanying a re-grade request will result in the assessment of a "technical foul" penalty.
equal to the total number of points for the disputed question. Please also note that a re-grade request is different from the questions "Can you help me figure out what I did wrong here?", or “I don’t understand the posted solutions”, which are entirely appropriate for office hours.

**Grades on Blackboard:** It is your responsibility to make sure the grades recorded on Blackboard are correct. You should also let me know if you think something was graded incorrectly. However, all of this should be done in a timely manner. (You shouldn’t wait until finals week to let me know that you need more points on Homework #1.) All grades in Blackboard (other than the final exam) should be finalized by the end of Dead Week. Any mistakes or omissions in Blackboard need to be shown to me before then.

**Academic Integrity:** We take academic integrity very seriously in this course. The only true way to get an education is through hard work and striving to understand concepts on your own. The penalty for academic misconduct on any assignment, exam, or final project is failure for the course with referral to the Dean of Students for further sanctions. Cheating on the assignments, midterm, final project, or final exam results in an “F” for the course. Note that we punish not only the person who cheats but also the person who enables the cheater. When it comes to academic misconduct we have zero tolerance. On this note, last year I caught a ring of 7 cheaters on the final exam, they all received “F” for the course.