

Instructor Information:

Andrew (Andy) Wiesner, PhD
Department of Statistics
416 Thomas Building
863 – 5653
ajw13@psu.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:30-11:30

Teaching Assistants (offices in 301 Thomas): (office hours to be announced)

Sections 13 and 14:

Shirvonne McCarthy, smm503@psu.edu

Sections 15 and 16:

Kion Kim, kuk142@psu.edu

Description: Statistics is the art and science of using sample data to make generalizations about populations. The topics covered in this course include:

- methods for collecting and summarizing data
- methods for evaluating the accuracy of sample estimates
- techniques for making statistical inferences

Users of statistics -- researchers, government agencies like the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, companies like the automakers and drug industry, etc. -- make extensive use of the computer in applying statistical methods to their problems. So will you! You will have plenty of practice in analyzing data from a variety of areas and should be well prepared for problem-solving involving statistics in the rest of your college courses, as well as gaining an understanding of the role of statistics in your daily life.

Text: *Mind on Statistics*, (2nd Ed), by Utts and Heckard

Grading:

- Homework (12): 10% - Due by/on Thursday Lab (approx. 12)
- Lab Quizzes (12): 10% - Completed during Thursday Lab (approx. 12)
- Group Project: 10% - Second to last week of class
- Midterms (3/2 and 4/6): 20% each – No make up exams!
- Final: 30% - Cumulative!

Lecture Notes: Posted on the ANGEL website

Correspondence: All email correspondence to me MUST be done using the ANGEL email (under In Touch in ANGEL). Any web mail risks going unanswered. You are responsible for all email from me that is sent through ANGEL.

Policies:

- For both the homework and the quizzes, your best 10 scores in each category will count toward your final grade. That is, your two lowest quiz scores and two lowest homework scores will be dropped. Because of this, the following will be:

- Homework:

- Handed in by or during the time **your section** meets on Thursday.
- Include your name and section number
- Handing in the wrong homework is analogous to not doing the homework.
- If you hand the homework in during the wrong section the grade will not be recorded.
- The grading of homework is simple – either you get a 0 or 10. If you *attempt to answer* each question honestly, then you will receive a 10/10; otherwise a 0.

- Lab Quizzes:

- Can only be taken for a grade in 064 Willard during Thursday lab meetings.
- Quizzes cannot be made up nor taken early.

- Exams:

- The midterms will be held during Thursday labs on March 2 and April 6.
- Exams (midterms and final) are open book and open notes. However, do not misunderstand that this makes the exam easier. Experience shows that students who rely on the book/notes do not fair well as they spend too much time researching the answers.
- No midterm make-ups are available. If you miss a midterm, your score will be calculated by taking the mean of your scores on the other midterm and final.

Some Suggestions:

- Be careful to complete the correct homework assignment! In the past some students have come to me saying that, for example, they did homework 3 instead of homework 2. If this happens the homework will not be accepted.

- As explained in the first paragraph above under **Policies**, you have 2 “extra” assignments in both the quizzes and homework portions. Do not mistakenly miss an assignment assuming that you can afford to miss two. Often during a semester personal issues arise (sickness, family emergencies, etc.) which may require you to miss an assignment resulting in a “0” for that particular task. Also, as the semester progresses hopefully the weather will improve. You may wish come some nice Thursday in April that you could “skip” a day!

Academic Integrity:

Please visit: <http://www.science.psu.edu/academic/Integrity/index.html> concerning academic integrity for details.