STAT 113 – Introduction to Statistics (Fall 2016)

Instructor: Kevin Woods, King 220B, Kevin.Woods@oberlin.edu. Call me Kevin! (he/him/his)

Lectures: Section 3: MWF 9-9:50am, King 243. Section 4: MWF 10-10:50am, King 243.
Lab: Section 3: Tues 9-9:50am, Sci Center K100. Section 4: Tues 10-10:50am, Sci Center K100.

Office Hours:
Monday 2-2:30pm, Wednesday 11am-12pm, Thursday 3:30-5pm, Friday 1:30-2:30pm, and by appointment. Also, feel free to stop by any time my door is open (but be understanding if I say I am too busy).

Required Textbook:
Statistics: Unlocking the Power of Data, Locke, et al., 1st and only edition. We will cover the whole book. There are copies on reserve in MUDD, but keep in mind you will need it every single day.

Consent to Register:
In order to register for this course, you must first see Pat Armstrong in King 205 and take a short Statistics Readiness Test (you are exempt if you have Calculus credit on your transcript, but you must still speak to her). If you perform well enough on that, she will put you on the wait-list. If you’re on the wait-list, you must come to every class until I can let you know whether you will make it into the course.

Stats in High School:
This class starts from the beginning, assuming no knowledge of Stats. If you had AP Stats in high school, or some other good stats class, I urge you to take STAT 215 (offered every fall). That class reviews everything you’ve previously seen, before going further.

Computer Software:
We will use the statistical package R, specifically the implementation RStudio. You will be able to access RStudio from any computer, using a web browser. Instructions and tutorials will come during the lab sessions on Tuesdays.

Blackboard:
I will post homework, reading, and other announcements on the course website at blackboard.oberlin.edu. You will also answer the daily reading questions on it.

Grading:
Daily Work / Participation (10%).
Homework (10%).
Projects (30%).
2 In-class Midterm Exams (15% each),
Final Exam (20%).

Daily Work / Participation (10%).
I don’t want to come to class each day and tell you what the book already says. Because of this, you need to read the book beforehand; we can have better discussions when we’re on the same page about the material. To encourage this, you must answer a few questions before each class. You must go to Blackboard by 7:30am the day of class to answer these questions (click on the “Reading Questions” link). These will not be graded for correctness, only that you made a legitimate attempt at them. These will also be helpful to me to see what I need to emphasize in class. Part of participation is also being in class and on time. I will take away points here if this is a recurring problem.

Homework (10%).
The best way to learn the tools and concepts in this course is practice! Homework will be assigned each week and generally due on Fridays. I strongly suggest that you also do the suggested problems that I will assign as well; I will post full solutions to these on Blackboard. Use full sentences to explain what you are doing. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.
Honor Code: You may (should!) work together on these problems, but your written solutions must be your own. In particular, you should not be reading another student’s final written solutions. You may use the book and your notes, and of course come talk to me! You may use calculators and software also.

Late Work Policy: They are due at 4 pm, generally on Fridays. If you do not hand them in at class, I will leave an envelope out for you to put them in. If they are handed in by the time the grader collects them from my office (no guarantees when that is), you get full credit. If they are not, you get a 0. Because I drop one homework grade at the end of the semester, I generally do not allow you to turn it in late because of sickness, etc.

Projects (30%).

The purpose of this type of assignment is to give you an opportunity to work on more involved and open-ended problems and to write things up in a careful manner. I will give you more specifics when I assign them. You will generally have the last bit of lab every week to get started on the assignment, and you will be able to work with others to some degree. We will have 4 projects throughout the semester, built up through weekly assignments. I will only grade the final versions, and you will get (and give) peer feedback on prior versions. A significant part of your grade will be completing the intermediate assignments and giving adequate peer feedback, and the rest of your grade will be the quality of the final result.

Honor Code: I will clarify this on the first assignment. In general, you may/should consult with others, but do your own writing.

Late Work Policy: Since peers will be heavily reliant on you to get the intermediate assignments in on time, you will get a zero on that segment if it is late. For final versions, consult me in advance if you need to turn them in late. In general, I’ll give you a day or two for free, longer lateness will be a letter grade off, and extreme lateness will be two letter grades.

Two In-class Exams (15% each).

Tentatively Monday, October 3 and Wednesday, November 9. These will concentrate on topics covered in that segment of the course, but the course material is very cumulative, so you will have to know everything from the course so far.

Honor Code: You must work on it alone. They will be closed book, but you are allowed a page of notes.

More detailed instructions will follow.

Late Work Policy: Only in rare (emergency) circumstances will late exams be accepted.

Final Exam (20%).

Section 3: Wednesday, December 14, 2-4 pm. Section 4: Friday, December 16, 2-4 pm.

The final will be an in-class exam and will cover the entire course.

Honor Code: You must work on it alone. It will be closed book, but you are allowed a page or two of notes.

More detailed instructions will follow.

Late Work Policy: You would need to talk to me and the Dean of Studies in advance.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability of any sort that may affect your performance in this class, please consult with me and with Jane Boomer in the Office of Disability Services. All requests for accommodation must go through that office.