

Instructor: Joshua M. Tebbs, Department of Statistics
Course: STAT 110: Introduction to Descriptive Statistics, Section 009
Class Time: 8.00-9.15 TTh in PSC 002
Office: 209G LeConte (tel: 777.5163)
Office Hours: 10.00-11.00 MTWTh (or by appointment)
email: tebbs@stat.sc.edu
url: <http://www.stat.sc.edu/~tebbs/index.htm>

Required Course Material:

- Moore, D. & Notz, W. (2006). *Statistics: Concepts and Controversies*, 6th Edition, WH Freeman and Company.

Objectives: The purpose of this course is to present statistical ideas from a conceptual point of view. We will explore such topics as descriptive statistics (e.g., means, medians, standard deviations, percentiles, etc.), graphical displays, data collection, principles of experimental design, basic probability, the normal distribution, confidence intervals, correlation, simple linear regression, and two-way tables (if time permits). Upon completion of this course, you should understand the importance of sound statistical methods when making decisions and how statistics are often misused. We will not emphasize mathematical calculations in this course (although, we will do some). STAT 201 emphasizes mathematical calculations and is often taken after STAT 110.

Exam Schedule: We will have two in-class midterm examinations; one on Thursday, October 5 (note that this is the last day to drop the course without a “WF”) and the other on Thursday, November 16. A cumulative final examination will be Tuesday, December 12, at 9.00am. All exams will be closed-book and closed notes. Please especially note that I do not give make-up examinations.

Quizzes: I plan to give both announced and unannounced quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will likely be closed-book and closed-notes. No make-up quizzes will be given, and each will count towards your final grade. On occasion, “extra-credit” quizzes may be given (these can not be made up either). All quizzes will likely be very similar to the problems I assign for homework (see next section).

Homework Assignments: There will be 7-12 homework assignments throughout the semester. While completing homework assignments carefully will prepare you for my exams and quizzes, they will not be graded. The assignments will likely be problems from the text. On occasion, I may ask you to turn in a problem from the text; I will count such problems as “take-home” quizzes.

Grade Breakdown: Your course grade will be based on your performance on midterm examinations (25 percent each), quizzes/class participation (20 percent), and the final examination (30 percent). Final course grades will be assigned according to a 90-80-70-60 protocol.

Statistics Help Lab: There is a “help lab” staffed with graduate students in LeConte 105. Hours for the lab are TBA. This is a free service offered by our department.

Some comments about STAT 110:

- I expect you to attend each class session as we will cover a lot of material.
- Classroom discussions will follow course notes which I provide; these notes, in turn, closely follow the text.
- Feel free to ask questions during class; your questions and input are important parts of this course.
- Introductory level courses like STAT 110 can be challenging, and few students are able to master the material without keeping up on a regular basis. If you do fall behind, it is easy to become confused and bored with the material.
- See me if you have a question about finding private tutors for the course.
- I would like to talk to anybody with a disability that may require special attention with examinations or other aspects of the course. Please come talk to me after class the first day.
- Plagiarism, copying, and cheating are grounds for failing the course. For more information, see the Student Affairs Policy STAF 6.25 (available online). If you have any questions, please see me.
- Working together on homework is permitted and encouraged, and, even though homework will not be graded, each student should write up and complete his/her own work independently of others.
- I hope that you have an enjoyable and successful semester. *Good luck!!*

My expectations for you:

1. Attend every class and be on time.
2. Read appropriate sections of the text/notes before class.
3. Attempt all homework.
4. Ask questions if you do not understand something or wish to know more.
5. Make it your goal to understand everything we do.