



## **ECON260 Statistics for Business & Economics**

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### **Spring 2016-17 Syllabus**

**Course information-** January 12<sup>th</sup> -May 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Econ 260-01-** 8:30 AM-9:45 AM Main Campus

**Econ 260-02-** 10:00 AM-11:15 AM Main Campus

**Communication-** I do not use outlook for emails. Email me using Canvas Inbox.

Office phone- 708-448-5281

Office Hours: 11.30 am – 12.00 pm with prior appointment in my office in Fine Arts 206. I am available for online chat on Canvas as an alternative to campus meetings.

#### **Course Materials:**

Textbook: *Essentials of Statistics for Business and Economics*. Anderson, Sweeney, Williams, Camm, and Cochran. Southwestern/Cengage. Hardcover ISBN: 9781133629658

Older editions of the text are NOT acceptable. **You will need the textbook for homework and in-class activities.**

Calculator: Please bring a calculator every day. Not just your cell phone, but an actual calculator.

**Description:** This course examines statistical procedures used to solve problems in business and management. No matter what your major is and what you ultimately pursue as a career goal, knowledge of basic statistics is expected from every professional. A primary goal of this course is to make you better consumers of quantitative evidence by giving you a better understanding of how “the numbers” are produced (and/or manipulated as the case may be) as well as improve your ability to interpret and evaluate the quantitative data that you come across on a daily basis. In addition, you will learn to present quantitative analyses and interpretations in a clear manner.

The specific topics covered include data description, an introduction to statistical inference, probability, hypothesis testing and regression. The course will be presented as a mixture of lecture, discussion and in-class problem solving and you are required to complete a series of assignments designed to give you a working familiarity with data analysis. We will primarily use Microsoft Excel, since it is useful for a broad range of functions in business and therefore, likely to be of more practical use to you.

**Course Objectives:** More so than in many classes, success in this course requires the mastery of a clearly defined set of skills (e.g., how to calculate probability or run a regression analysis). Earning a passing grade, however, requires that you show a grasp of the material that goes beyond the technical application of a set of operations. Critical thinking and interpretation of quantitative evidence are core parts of this course.

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Develop graphical and numerical depictions (histograms, bar charts etc.) of business data.
- Calculate and interpret measures of central tendency and standard deviation
- Develop and analyze probability distributions
- Apply confidence intervals and hypothesis tests to make decisions about population characteristics based on sampling
- Perform regression analyses using statistical software and properly interpret regression results
- Accurately and creatively present quantitative information
- Confidently use Microsoft Excel to manage data sets

**Course Expectations:**

- You are required to read the chapter, the assigned material, and attempt questions prior to class.
- Students are expected to read assigned material for each chapter before it is covered in the class and then create learning logs for each chapter using the prompts I provide. Learning log is a record of what you have read, practiced, and understood. It not only serves as an excellent way to review for the exam but also records key steps/methods for some of the basic but well-used statistical tests and interpretation. You will be allowed to utilize a hard copy of learning logs during exams and in-class activities.
- I expect professional behavior from each of you and hold you to the same standards, norms, and expectations as prevalent in the business world. Therefore, you are expected to attend every class on time and well prepared to learn the topic to be covered in the class. As you know, unexcused absence, tardiness, and inattentiveness are not tolerated in the business world.
- If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to come up to speed with material discussed in class from a classmate.
- **Policy for mobile device usage.** Use of electronic devices such as phones is a source of distraction. Students are expected to turn off the phones and other devices when in class. The course will be taught in a computer classroom and the PCs are to be used for course work only. If I see you engaging in an online activity not related to our course work, then I reserve the right to broadcast your screen content to the class.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. Behavior that violates these standards is not acceptable. Examples are the use of unauthorized material, communication with fellow students during an examination, attempting to benefit from the work of another student and similar behavior defeats the intent of an examination or other class work. Please refer to “Definitions of Plagiarism, Cheating and Academic Dishonesty” and “Sanctions for Violations of Academic Integrity” found in the *Brennan School of Business Bulletin*.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:**

Readiness for in-class activities: Each class may begin with a short assessment of homework to gauge student readiness. We will also be doing in-class exercises. There are no make-ups for these activities. If you miss a class for any reason, plan to take the optional final exam during the exam week as a make-up. (20% of course grade)

Assessments: There will be four assessments, either in the form of tests or a case problem. (60% of course grade)

Career Exploration Project: I will share details related to the project in the first few weeks of the course. (20% of course grade)

Optional Final Exam: There will be a final exam covering the entire course content. (10% of course grade)

(90-100%: A, 80-89%: B, 70-79%: C, 60-69%: D, <60%: F) Pluses and minuses at instructor's discretion based on attendance, participation, and evidence of readiness.

**Student Accommodations:** It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services office at 708-524-6822 to discuss their individual needs for accommodation. All information regarding disabilities is confidential.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Beginning</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	January 9 <sup>th</sup>	Syllabus & Chapter 1
2	January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 2
3	January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chapter 3
4	January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment I and Project Work
5	February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 4
6	February 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 5
7	February 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 6
8	February 27 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment II and Project Work
9	March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break
10	March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 7
11	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8 Easter March 24 <sup>th</sup>
12	March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 9
13	April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Assessment III and Project Work
14	April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 12
15	April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 13
16	April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Assessment IV and Project Work
17	May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Exam Week