

Statistics 3615 – Biological Statistics Spring 2012

Tuesday, Thursday; 2:00 – 3:15; Seitz 313

Instructor: KC Kubli

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Office: TBD

Office Hours: Monday; 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, Wednesday; 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM. Other times are also available by appointment, with sufficient notice provided.

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Course objectives: Students taking this course typically have varying levels of mathematical abilities and academic interests. As such, I hope to provide a broad overview of and introduction to the field of statistics, specifically in the biological setting. It is my ultimate goal that you leave this course with a basic knowledge of major statistical concepts. I am more than happy to work with you to reach this end and encourage you to approach me in regards to any questions or problems you may have.

We will be covering the following chapters throughout the semester: 1-4, 7-15, 17-20, and 23-24.

Prerequisites: None, although some high school level algebra will be required.

Materials:

Text: Moore, David S. (2009), The Practice of Statistics in the Life Sciences, W. H. Freeman and Company.

Calculator: A basic scientific calculator with statistical functions will be needed. TI-83, TI-83 Plus, TI-84, or TI-84 Plus calculators are preferred and allowed for exams as long as the memory of the calculator is cleared before each exam.

Supplemental materials: In conjunction with the textbook, we will utilize additional resources throughout the semester:

1. Scholar– Assignments, announcements, lecture slides, etc.
2. Minitab – Statistical software package for data analysis.

Grading: Grading for this course will be conducted on the standard 10 point scale, with pluses/minuses assigned when appropriate. The grading breakdown is as follows:

Assignments 40%
Test 1 20%
Test 2 20%
Final Exam 20%

Assignments: Homework will be assigned, and due, on a regular basis. Due dates may vary, but will be announced in class as well as posted on Scholar with the assignment. Solutions will typically be provided. Some guidelines for homework are as follows:

1. Late homework will not be accepted, no exceptions. However, your lowest homework grade will be dropped.
2. For the homework problems, you may work with others but you must submit your own answers. If cheating is suspected, then all materials will be submitted to the Honor Court.
3. All problems on some homework sets may not be graded. You are responsible for checking your answers with posted solutions on Scholar.
4. The solutions found on Scholar are the level of work expected for the class.
5. Write your answers in complete sentences.
6. From the day the homework is posted, you have one week to dispute the grade.
7. Homework problems should be compiled in the correct order i.e. don't put problem one last.
8. Staple multiple pages together.
9. Put your name on it! If we don't know whose work it is, we can't give you a grade.
10. The paper must be without ragged edges.

Failure to do any of the last four will result in a 5% deduction of points from your final grade on that assignment (failure to do two is a 10% reduction, three is 15% etc.)

Tests: There will be two tests during the course of the semester. The tests are closed book and closed notes. The dates will be announced in class, at least one week in advance. There are no make-up tests unless I receive a letter from the dean of your college indicating you have an approved reason for missing the scheduled test date.

Tentative dates are as follows:

- Test 1 – Thursday, March 1st
- Test 2 – Thursday, April 19th

The tests may be held in the evening.

Final: The final is comprehensive, closed book and closed notes. It is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th from 1:05 PM – 3:05 PM.

Special Requests: If for any reason you need special considerations please let me know as soon as possible. We can work together to make sure your needs are met. All requests must be approved by the university. Feel free to visit www.ssd.vt.edu for additional info.

Honor Code: The Virginia Tech Honor Code will be strictly enforced in this course. All graded assignments must be composed of your own work.

All dates and policies are subject to adjustment as the class progresses. In such instances, I will give you sufficient notice via Scholar.