

MA 118: Intro to Stats

Syllabus

Spring 2020

The real syllabus starts on the next page, but these are the highlights:

1. Some days homework will be distributed on a worksheet, and some days problems will be assigned from the textbook. When from the textbook, some days all students will do the same problems (labeled as Set A/B), but some days the homework will be divided into a Set A and a Set B, and you get to choose which one you will do. (You need not to both.) The Set A problems are more numerous, usually have answers in the back of the book, and will be graded primarily on participation. The Set B problems are less numerous, rarely have answers in the back, and will be analyzed more thoroughly, with a grade based more upon the quality of work. The intent is to give you a break if we hit a topic that you master easily. If you need practice, please do the Set A problems and get the practice, not to mention a better chance for full credit for the assignment.
2. Each of the three main segments of our course (excluding the very last section, which has only three assignments) has its own set of homework. You are allowed to skip one homework assignment from each segment without penalty. However, if you hand in all of the homework assignments (on time), you will get credit for all of them (i.e. extra credit).
3. Homework that is not handed in on time is considered late. During each of the three main segments of our course, the first late homework assignment is considered your skipped assignment for that segment. Subsequent late assignments will be given at most half credit, provided they are no more than one class late. Assignments more than one class late will earn zero points.
4. Homework that has any element of copying (from another student, from an instructor's guide, from the back of the book) will be handled harshly.
5. After homework has been graded, solutions (for some problems) will be posted on the class website.
6. Missing Exams: You are not entitled to makeup exams, but makeup exams may be given under some circumstances. There are rewards associated with taking all exams on time, and there may be penalties associated with missing exams.
7. If you need to miss class for an authorized school activity, the sponsor of that activity needs to tell the Academic Dean who will notify me of your excused absence.
8. There are rewards for perfect class attendance and perfect exam attendance. Sometimes I give rewards for slightly less than perfect class attendance. I'm not going to nag you about your attendance, but if I think missing class is becoming an issue for you, I may notify your advisor, the CAS, and the retention committee. Also, sometimes at the end of the semester I lower the grade lines, which boosts everyone's grade. If you have missed 5 or more classes, don't expect this boosting to happen to you. You'll get what you have earned, but you won't get any special favors from me!
9. Bring a calculator with you to class every day. No graphing calculator is needed, but definitely something better than your cell phone.
10. Bring your textbook to class when you can, but it is not urgent.
11. The best way to contact me is via email at leroy.hammerstrom@enc.edu .
12. Our class website is at <http://www.ProfHammer.net> . From there you can navigate to the Intro to Stats page. There you will find copies of the syllabus and homework pages, as well as homework notes (posted after the homework has been graded). You will also find links to other things associated with our course.

< More info on the back >

Some extra information, not entirely in the syllabus:

In-class behavior: I like to run kind of a loose classroom, where we can have some fun and not too much stress while we get our work done. With this kind of approach, it is easy for certain other things to become distractions. There are a few things that you can do to help me not regret this approach:

1. Please mute your cell phone during class.
2. Please don't conduct electronic "business" during class, like texting or checking email.
3. Please don't sit with earbuds in or headphones on.
4. Due to the nature of this course, it is unlikely that you will be able to efficiently take notes on a laptop or iPad. Therefore, I don't usually expect to see those open during class,
5. Please keep non-class chatting to a minimum.
6. Please do your best to use the restroom before or after class. It is a disruption if you get up and walk out during the lecture.

Important Dates: Get these on your calendar!

1. January 15 (Wed): Last day to add a course
2. January 22 (Wed): Last day to drop a course
3. January 29 (Wed): Exam 1.
4. February 26 (Wed): Exam 2
5. March 11 (Wed): Last day to withdraw from a course
6. April 3 (Fri): Exam 3
7. April 20: Makeup Exams (for authorized students) & Senior Exams

MA 118: Intro to Stats

Spring 2020 Syllabus

Prof: Lee Hammerstrom
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Website for class info: <http://www.ProfHammer.net>
Note: This is NOT Moodle or Canvas

Goals of this course:

1. To help you learn the terminology and methods of probability, descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics.
2. To help you enhance your problem solving skills within the framework of prob & stats.

Text: Elementary Statistics, 10th ed., by Mario Triola, Addison Wesley: 2006

Student Solutions Manual, by Mario Triola (This book is optional.)

Note: It is expected that each student will have their own **hard copy** of the text. Some of our exams will be partially “open book,” but **sharing of books during an exam will NOT be allowed**, nor will the use of electronic copies of the book during exams be allowed. Please see me if this is a problem for you.

Another Note: It is also expected that no student has or has access to an instructor’s textbook or an instructor’s answer guide, including solutions downloaded from the class website during a previous semester. Such access is a form of cheating and will not be tolerated.

Grading:

EXAMS -- Three 1-hour examinations worth about 80 points each.

QUIZZES/ACTIVITIES -- There will be occasional quizzes, group activities, and/or computer lab activities spread throughout the semester. Most will be worth 5 to 10 points, for a total of 20 to 50 points.

HOMEWORK -- Assigned and collected regularly, adding about 100 points. See the “More about Homework” paragraph below for details about Homework.

FINAL EXAM -- Worth about 120 points, covering the last chapters of the course and highlights from the rest of the course.

Note: Any students exempted from final exams (e.g. graduating seniors) will be required to take a fourth mini-exam (covering the last topics only), worth about 50 points. This “Senior Exam” will be given on the makeup exam day.

TOTAL POINTS -- Approximately 500 points.

Final grades: Course grades will be assigned on a basis of 93% = A, 90% = A-, 87% = B+, 83% = B, 80% = B-, 77% = C+, 73% = C, 70% = C-, 60% = D, below 60% = F.

Note: I do not have a certain percentage of A’s to give out and a certain percentage of F’s to give out. If the entire class gets a 93%, the entire class will get A’s. You are not competing against one another.

Examination dates: Tentatively our 3 exams are scheduled for Wednesday Jan 30, Wednesday Feb 27, and Friday April 5. THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND SUCH CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS. YOUR ABSENCE FROM CLASS DOES NOT FREE YOU FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADAPTING TO ANY CHANGES.

To class each day you should bring: A calculator (preferably a scientific calculator, but no graphing calculator is needed), your completed homework page(s), and of course paper and pencil/pen. It will often be good to have your textbook with you, but use your best judgment about how much weight you can carry! I’ll never give you a pop assignment requiring use of the book.

Missed assignments:

EXAMS -- You are not entitled to make-up exams. You cannot just *choose* to miss an exam and expect the prof to allow you to make up that exam. You must be given permission to get a make-up exam. There are two types of potentially acceptable reasons for missing an exam:

- You have some kind of scheduling difficulty (e.g. you are on a sports team with a game on exam day, you have a doctor's appointment during an exam). Please do your best to reschedule your other event. Think of your 3 exams as 3 appointments you have with your prof that are not easily rescheduled. If you are not able to reschedule, please let the prof know as soon as possible about the conflict. There is a certain amount of flexibility in the class schedule, and the prof might be able to rearrange things, thus preserving your exam extra credit. But the prof needs several weeks notice to do that. If your conflict is due to an authorized school activity, please see the "Missing class for school activities" paragraph below.
- If you have some kind of emergency (illness, death in the family, etc.) that forces you to miss an exam, please contact the prof on the day of the exam so there is no confusion about your eligibility and need for a makeup exam. When you return to class, please bring a note from someone in authority verifying your emergency.

Makeup exams will be more difficult than the regular exam. In addition, if you do not do your best to follow the above guidelines, or if you miss an exam for a less than legitimate reason and your prof (out of the goodness of his heart) decides to give you some kind of make-up exam anyway, such make-up exams may be worth less value than the regular exam.

Make-up exams (if you have been given permission to take one) will be given during class time on Wed, April 17.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES -- It will usually not be possible to make-up missed quizzes or activities. If you have an acceptable reason for missing one of these activities, an alternate makeup assignment may be necessary.

HOMEWORK -- Homework that is not handed in on time is considered late. During each of the three main segments of our course, the first late homework assignment is considered your skipped assignment for that segment. Subsequent late assignments will be given at most half credit, provided they are no more than one class late. Assignments more than one class late will earn zero points.

FINAL EXAM -- Professors do not have the authority to give final exams at any time other than that assigned by the Registrar.

Any student wishing to take a final exam at a time other than the one scheduled is required to file a petition with the Committee on Admissions and Academic Standing. This petition is available from the Registrar's Office.

Regarding unexpected days off: Occasionally circumstances (such as snowstorms) make it necessary for classes to be canceled. Under such circumstances, please pay attention to your email, as your prof will try to update you as soon as possible via email.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all class sessions. Regular attendance is essential for proper understanding of the course topics. Though no grade is directly assigned based upon attendance, poor attendance will be reflected in your quiz & activity scores, and ultimately in your course average and grade. Attendance will be taken daily for the instructor's own records. Extra credit is given for excellent attendance, and sometimes for near-excellent attendance.

I'm not going to nag you about your attendance, but if I think missing class is becoming an issue for you, I may notify your advisor, the CAS, and the retention committee. Also, sometimes at the end of the semester I lower the grade lines, which boosts everyone's grade. If you have missed 5 or more classes, don't expect this boosting to happen to you. You'll get what you have earned, but you won't get any special favors from me!

And a word about attendance to make you think: Nowhere does the course material grow and grow from class to class like it does in math and the sciences. Missing just 1 day in this course can have a repeated serious impact on your chance for success in this course. Be very careful if you choose to miss class. *Your goal should be to miss zero classes during this semester.*

Missing class for school activities: If you have some other activity (a choir trip, drama presentation, athletic event, etc.) that requires you to miss class, these are the things you should know. First, none of these absences are considered "excused" until the sponsor of your activity has notified the Academic Dean's office about this event, and the Dean has notified the faculty. This is particularly important if these activities cause you to miss an exam, but it is probably a good thing to do this just for regular days, too, so your profs will have less worry about your commitment to the class. Secondly, most of these activities are known (by you and your sponsors, but not by your profs, necessarily) well in advance. It would be best for planning if you and your sponsors could notify your profs as soon as is reasonable about upcoming activities. (It might allow for schedule changes to be made.)

More about Homework:

- 1) Homework is always due as described on the homework page.
- 2) Homework should be done neatly, showing your work, your name or initials on each page, pages stapled together, no spiral notebook fuzz, etc.
- 3) Each of the three main segments of our course has its own set of homework. You are allowed to skip one homework assignment from each segment without penalty. However, if you hand in all of the homework assignments (on time), you will get credit for all of them (i.e. extra credit).
- 4) Some days homework will be distributed on a worksheet, and some days problems will be assigned from the textbook. When from the textbook, some days all students will do the same problems (labeled as Set A/B), but some days the homework will be divided into a Set A and a Set B, and you get to choose which one you will do. (You need not to both.) The Set A problems consist of many problems, mostly odd-numbered problems, which usually have their answers in the back of the book. You should always check your own work, and then correct your work. It is okay to hand in the first incorrect version along with the corrections. (i.e. No need to recopy just to hide an error.) Be honest with yourself: if you do not understand how to get to an answer, ask me or a classmate or someone in the CAS. The Set B problems are usually fewer in number, and will rarely have answers in the back of the book. If you do these problems it will be assumed that you can also do the Set A problems.
- 5) Set A problems will be graded primarily on a participation basis. That is, if you did all of the problems and made a good faith attempt at them, then you will get most or all of the points. Set B problems will usually be inspected in greater detail, but a good faith attempt will go a long way there, too. However, if you seem to have great difficulty with the Set B problems, you will probably want to switch over to the Set A problems so you can get more practice and stop losing points. Both homework sets will earn the same points on each assignment.
- 6) It will be rare for us to have time to go over homework in class. If you need help on problems, please pursue that help before class. (That doesn't mean during the half-hour before class starts while I'm trying to get set up for class.)
- 7) The main goal of the homework is to help you become comfortable with the course material before the exam arrives. This goal can only be attained (or approached) if each student does his/her own work. It is OK for students to work together, but make sure each person can do every problem. (Copying work from one another in math class is considered **plagiarism**, just like everywhere else.)
- 8) Copying answers out of the back and handing them in as your own is also a form of **plagiarism**. I can tell: your work is going one direction, then miraculously you have the correct answer! Or I can tell: you have no work whatsoever, and yet you have the correct answer (which perfectly matches the answer in the back), indicating that you can solve a problem in your head, a problem that your prof himself couldn't (or wouldn't) solve in his head! Such circumstances will be dealt with harshly.
- 9) You do the math: Missing one 5 point homework assignment (if we end up with 500 points) means losing one percentage point off your final percentage. You're going to wish you had those points at the end of the semester!

Some gifts to you: As added incentive for you to conform to the framework of this course, the following bonuses will be given:

- 1) All students with perfect attendance during the semester (including attendance at the lab sessions) will be given a 2 percentage point boost in their final percentage.
- 2) All students that take all exams at the announced times will receive a 1 percentage point boost in their final percentage.
- 3) Any exam for which all students participate at the announced time (that is, for which no make-up exam needs to be written) will earn bonus points on that exam for each student (number of points given will be based upon the size of the exam).

How to get help in this course:

1. Help yourself! Do your homework, rework the problems we did in class, do more problems than were assigned, find another Stats book (in the library?) and try more problems. Practice is the major strategy for success in this course.
2. Form or get into a study group.
3. Go to the Center for Academic Services (basement of the library) and see an on-duty tutor or arrange for a private tutor.
4. Look on the class website for homework hints.
5. Email Prof H for hints. I can't give hints on every problem, and I can't give hints on Monday morning for homework due Monday morning, but I'll do what I can within reason.
6. Arrange a meeting with Prof H. This is the easy way out, and it should not be your first option. You must put some effort into solving your problems first. (This does not mean I don't want you to come and see me. I just don't want to do your homework for you.)

Other Miscellaneous Policies and Statements

For State Department of Education purposes, this course will fulfill:

- Introductory Level Requirements for Discrete/Finite Mathematics
- Moderate Level Requirements for Probability and Statistics.

Eastern Nazarene College Academic Integrity Policy

A cornerstone of academia is a commitment to academic integrity. In a scholarly community, the importance of having respect for one's own work and the work of others is essential; building a sense of trust among members of such a community is crucial as individuals create, share, and apply scholarly work. The importance of academic integrity is heightened within a Christian community of scholars in that we are also accountable to God for any behavior of a dishonest nature. In consultation with administrators, faculty and students, Eastern Nazarene College has set forth basic standards of academic integrity.

BASIC STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Eastern Nazarene College, integrity and honesty are expected and required in all activities associated in any way with academic course work. While it is not prudent or practical to attempt to specify an exhaustive list of unacceptable behavior related to academic integrity, examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cheating (e.g., using any unauthorized materials or devices during an examination, allowing other students to submit your work under their name, changing responses on an exam after it has been graded, etc.).
- Plagiarism, which is presenting the work of others as your own, either directly or by implication (e.g., not giving credit to the original source for any thoughts, ideas, quotations, charts, etc. included in one's own work, etc.).
- Falsifying information (e.g., reporting of undocumented data, fabricating a set of data, fabricating volunteer hours required for a course, etc.).
- Stealing and/or distributing exams which have not been authorized for release or included in syllabi, and discussed in individual classes at the beginning of each semester.

Students and faculty should consult the Registrar's Office for the procedures for appealing and reporting academic dishonesty. It can also be found on the college web site at:

www1.enc.edu/registrar/academic-policies/.

Other Miscellaneous Policies and Statements, cont.

Eastern Nazarene College Class Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend ALL class sessions. Students are reminded of the importance of regular attendance at class. It is strongly advised that a student take care to see that his/her absences not exceed the equivalent of 150 minutes of classes in a semester course without penalty. These 150 minutes should be reserved for such things as illnesses, funerals, school related events, etc.

The first absence after these 150 minutes will result in the student's name being reported to his/her academic advisor and the Center for Academic Services (CAS). The second additional absence will result in the student's name being reported to the Provost. The third additional absence will result in the student failing the course unless they withdraw or gain permission from the Provost to reenter the class after a meeting of the student, professor, advisor and Provost.

Extensive absences for whatever reason may lead to the advisability of withdrawal from courses or Academic suspension for the remainder of the semester by the Provost's Office. Students are advised to consult the section of the catalog on withdrawal when they contemplate dropping out of courses or withdrawing from college.

Note: Individual classes may have additional or more stringent attendance policies. Policies stated in the class syllabus must be followed and students are strongly advised to carefully review the attendance policies in each of their classes.

Estimated Student Engagement Time (hours)

In-Class Instruction	33.60
Out-of-Class Work & Other Academic Activities	98.40
Media Viewing	2.40
Reading	20.00
Homework	42.00
Exam Prep	28.00
Exam Completion	6.00
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Total Student Engagement Time	132.00
Target Amount (3-cr course)	112.50

