1 General Info

Name: Christopher Brazfield, Assistant Professor  
Office: Lynch 283 H  
Office Hours: MWF 8–9 AM;  
M 3–4 PM;  
W 3–5 PM;  
TuTh 4–5 PM;  
Tutoring Session TH 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM in Lynch;  
by appointment;  
and anytime my door is open.

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2 Purpose

2.1 This Class

Specifically, the purpose of this course is to have you become comfortable with basic statistics. The course will emphasize understanding basic concepts rather than statistical techniques. By the end of the course you should be sufficiently “statistically literate” to understand statistics used in popular journalism. At this level, you should distinguish good from bad application and analysis of statistics.

2.2 In General

As course in a liberal arts college, this course has an additional purpose: to make you better readers and writers. The written word is one of humanity’s greatest inventions. It enables us to leave a lasting record of our knowledge and ideas. You will be expected to utilize the power of the written word in this class by reading and writing. There is no more important skill for college students than learning to learn by reading. This skill is the meta-goal for college and of this course.

I am your guide in this endeavor. You may be used to math teachers who show you how to do everything and expect you to parrot back the presentation given to you. You may also be used to other classes where you were reading a novel and you were asked to read the text and then come to class prepared to discuss the reading and ask questions. This class is modeled after the latter. Our textbook, as one reviewer writes, “reads like a detective novel.” As with any mystery novel, it is not always clear what is going on with just one reading. The text must be read carefully and reread to catch all the subtleties. I am here to give you guidance through any of the points in the plot you find tricky and highlight some that you may have missed. I look forward to the semester ahead with you.

3 Text

4 Homework

Homework will be assigned in each class period and collected at the beginning of the next class meeting. The homework will consist of problems from the Review Exercises from each covered chapter. The Exercise Sets are to be done after you read each section to practice what you’ve read in the section and will serve as the basis for the quiz questions and the exams. If you are ill (or have some other valid reason) and you notify me before class (by telephone, e-mail, leaving a message, sending word with another student, etc.), you will be allowed to submit homework late. If you are not present when homework is collected and you have not given prior notification as above, you will not be allowed to submit late homework.

The homework will be worth 10% of the class grade. Each homework assignment will be worth the same as every other homework assignment. The two lowest homework assignments will be dropped. The rubric for grading each homework problem is as follows:

- a 4 indicates that the problem is correct, well written in complete sentences, clear and concise;
- a 3 indicates the problem is correct but has a small problem that is easily fixed, is well written and clear;
- a 2 indicates the problem is correct but may have more than one mistake or it may be poorly written;
- a 1 indicates that the answer may be correct but the explanation is not acceptable because it is sloppy, poorly written, or unclear;
- a 0 indicates that there is no basis for credit because the explanation is missing or it indicates that the idea(s) relating the question were not understood.

In addition to the graded problems, the assignment as a whole will be considered and graded according to the following rubric:

- a “plus” will be given for an assignment that is well written and is missing no more than 20% of the assigned problems;
- a “check” will be given for an assignment that is messy or it is clear that it is scratch work or it is missing between 20% and 50% of the assigned problems (spiral bound paper is messy);
- a “zero” will be given for an assignment that is missing more than 50% of the assigned problems.

On each assignment, for each problem graded, you earn 6 points for a “plus”, 4 points for a “check”, and 0 points for a “zero”. In addition, your final grade will drop by 1.5 percentage points for every assignment missed past the second.

Please note that some chapters have more Exercise Sets than others and some less. Be sure to read the chapter, since there are often chapters which include material after the last Exercise Set.

5 Quizzes

Except for the first day of class, there will be a quiz every class period that is not dedicated to Review or Examination. The quiz questions will be taken from the Exercise Sets. Quizzes will be worth 20 percent of the final grade. The two lowest quizzes will be dropped.

6 Exams

There will be 3 exams each worth 15% of the final grade. If you miss an exam or quiz, you will receive a zero unless I am notified 12 hours ahead of time. If you have a legitimate reason to take an exam early or late, you must submit a written request to me before the scheduled exam. The Final Exam is scheduled for Friday May 6 from 9:00-12:00 AM, is worth 25% of your grade, and is comprehensive.
7 Grading

To recap the grading: Homework is worth 10%, Quizzes are worth 20%, Each Exam worth 15%, and the Final Exam worth 25%. The grading scale is standard: 92% for an A, 90% for an A-, 88% for a B+, 82% for a B, 80% for a B-, 78% for a C+, 72% for a C, 70% for a C-, 68% for a D+, 62% for a D, 60% for a D-, etc.

8 Policies and Procedures

Students will adhere to all Procedures, Policies, and Codes given in the 2004-2005 Student Handbook. This includes but is not limited to policies on Academic Dishonesty.

Disabilities and Medical Conditions: If you have a disability that requires accommodation, please let me know. Please see me or the Coordinator of Disability Services in Humanities 206-D, 867-6071 if you have any questions.
01/18: Read Chapter 1.

01/20: Chapter 2: Exercise Set A, Read Chapter 3: Exercise Sets A-F,
Turn in Review Exercises Ch2 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9.
Turn in Review Exercises Ch3 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12.

01/25: Chapter 4: Exercise Sets A-F. Turn in Review Exercises 2, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12.
Chapter 5: Exercise Sets A-F. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 10.

01/27: Chapters 6 & 7: Turn in Ch. 6 Review Exercises. Do Ch.7 Exercise Sets A-E.

02/01: Exam #1.
02/03: Chapter 8: Exercise Sets A-D. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 5, 7, 8, 10.

02/08: Chapter 9: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review Exercises 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12.
02/09: Chapter 10: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 4, 5, 7, 8.

02/15: Chapter 11: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review Exercises 1-8, 10, 12
02/17: Chapter 12: Exercise Sets A, B. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11.

02/22: Chapter 13: Exercise Sets A-D. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 11.
02/24: Chapter 14: Exercise Sets A-D. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13.

SPRING BREAK

03/08: Chapter 15: Exercise Set A. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11.
03/10: Exam #2.

03/15: Chapter 16: Exercise Sets A-C. Turn in Review Exercises 4, 5, 6, 7, 10.
03/17: Chapter 17: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review exercises 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10.

03/22: Chapter 18: Exercise Sets A-C Turn in Review Exercises 1, 5, 7, 8, 9.
03/24: Chapter 19: Exercise Sets A. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11.

03/29: Chapter 20: Exercise Sets A-C. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12.
03/31: Chapter 21: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 11, 14.

04/05: Chapter 22: Exercise Set A. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12.
04/07: Chapter 23: Exercise Sets A-D. Turn in Review Exercises 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12.

04/12: Exam #3.
04/14: Chapter 24: Exercise Sets A-C. Turn in Review Exercises 1-6, 10, 11.

04/19: Chapter 25: Exercise Set A. Turn in Review Exercises 1-5.
Chapter 26: Exercise Sets A-C.
04/21: Chapter 26: Exercise Sets D-F. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12.

04/26: Chapter 27: Exercise Sets A-D. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10.
04/28: Chapter 28: Exercise Sets A-C. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 2, 3, 6.

05/03: Chapter 29: Exercise Sets A-E. Turn in Review Exercises 1, 3, 4, 7, 9.
05/05: Review.

05/06: Final Exam 9:00 AM–12:00 AM.