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Office Hours: Mondays 2-3; Tuesdays 11:30 – 12:30; Thursdays, 2-3

Class Format: The bulk of instruction in this class will take place in small group settings. You will be placed in groups at random. Each group will work together through handouts designed to teach some aspect of the course material. Groups will be expected to ensure that every member learns all of the material. In part, your grade will depend on the performance of everyone in the group (see below). The philosophy of this class is that everyone benefits by helping each other learn. Your own understanding of the material will be greater if you must explain it to others.

Class Attendance: Because of the importance of in-class groupwork for your learning, regular class attendance is crucial. Therefore, excessive absences will not be tolerated. Anyone with more than 3 unexcused absences will fail this class.

Homework: Statistics is as much about being able to do certain things as it is about knowing certain things. You could not have learned to ride a bike just by listening to someone talk about how a bike works or what your body is supposed to do. You have to practice. And, the only way for me to know how well you are doing is to see evidence of that practice.

Therefore, you will be given homework assignments approximately once a week. Unless otherwise explicitly stated, homework assignments are always due exactly one week after they have been given out. Late homework will only be accepted under very extraordinary circumstances.

In total, homework assignments will be worth 50% of your final grade in this class.

Exams: There will be three exams in this class. All exams in this class will be open book/open note. Exam 1 will be held on Monday, February 23, and will be worth 10% of your final grade in this class. Exam 2 will be held on Monday, April 12 and will be worth 15% of your final grade. Exam 3 will be held on the scheduled final exam date and will be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam will be cumulative.

5% of your grade will be based on the average grade of all the members of your group. This should provide incentive to make you ensure that everyone in the group learns the material.
If you have to miss an exam: The earlier you can tell me that you need to miss an exam, the better. If you have to miss an exam for whatever reason, and let me know before the scheduled day of the exam, I will generally not require an explanation. You will have to take the exam before the scheduled date of the exam. (If this is not an excused absence, this will count as one of your 3 allowable absences!).

However, if an emergency arises, and you have to miss an exam unexpectedly, the only fair thing for me to do is to require you to provide some proof of why you missed your exam. If such a circumstance does arise, please (a) contact me as soon as possible and (b) get some sort of proof about where you were. My goal is to make it possible for everyone to do well in this class. However, it must be done in a way that is fair to everyone. Therefore, I will insist on some sort of evidence as to why you missed the exam.

Reading: Reading for this class will come from two books: RT Hurlburt (2003) Comprehending Behavioral Statistics (3rd ed.) and S. Caldwell (2004). Statistics Unplugged. Specific reading assignments will be given through the course of the semester. In-class work assumes you have read the material in the textbooks. Failure to read before coming to class will result in seriously degraded performance.