Stat 113 – Introduction to Statistics (Spring 2013)

Instructor: Kevin Woods, King 220B, Kevin.Woods@oberlin.edu.

Lectures: MWF 10-10:50am, King 239.

Laboratory: Tuesday 10-10:50am, King 137.

Office Hours:

Monday 4:30-5pm, Wednesday 12-1:30pm & 4:30-5pm, Thursday 3:30-5pm, Friday 11am-12pm, and by appointment. Also, feel free to stop by any time my door is open (but be understanding if I say I am too busy).

Required Textbook:

Stats: Data and Models, De Veaux, Velleman, Bock, **3rd edition**. We will cover basically the whole book.

Consent to Register:

In order to register for this course, you must first see Cathy Murillo (the Math AA) in King 205 and take a short Statistics Readiness Test. If you perform well enough on that, she will put you on the wait-list. If you're on the wait-list, you must come to every class until I can let you know whether you will make it into the course.

Computer Software:

We will use the statistical package R, specifically the implementation RStudio. You will be able to access RStudio from any computer, using a web browser. Instructions and tutorials will come during the lab sessions on Tuesdays.

Blackboard:

I will post homework, reading, other announcements, and grades on Blackboard. You will also answer the daily reading questions on it.

Grading:

Daily Work / Participation (10%).
Homework (10%).
Projects (30%),
2 Take-home Midterm Exams (15% each),
Final Exam (20%).

Daily Work / Participation (10%).

I don't want to come to class each day and tell you what the book already says. Because of this, you need to read the book beforehand; we can have better discussions when we're on the same page about the material. To encourage this, you must answer a few questions before each MWF class. You must go to Blackboard by 8am the day of class to answer these questions (click on the "Reading Questions" link). These will not be graded for correctness, only that you made a legitimate attempt at them. These will also be helpful to me to see what I need to emphasize in class. Part of participation is also being in class and on time. I can take away points here if this is a recurring problem. Do all of this, and this is an easy 100%.

Homework (10%).

The best way to learn the tools and concepts in this course is practice! Homework will be assigned each day, some required and some suggested. Each Friday (generally), you will turn in all of the required problems that have accumulated since the last time I collected. I strongly suggest that you do the suggested problems as well; I will post full solutions on Blackboard. Use full sentences to explain what you are doing. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Honor Code: You may (should!) work together on these problems, but your written solutions must be your own. In particular, you should not be reading another students final written solutions. You may use the book and your notes, and of course come talk to me! You may use calculators and software also.

Late Work Policy: They are due at 4pm, generally on Fridays. If you do not hand them in at class, I will leave an envelope out for you to put them in. If they are handed in by the time the grader collects them from my office (no guarantees when that is), you get full credit. If they are not, you get a 0 (but your lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the semester).

Projects (30%).

The purpose of this type of assignment is to give you an opportunity to work on more involved and open-ended problems and to write things up in a careful manner. These will generally be due Sundays at 4pm (I will tell you where to turn them in online). You will generally have the last bit of lab every week to get started on the assignment, and you will be able to work with others to some degree. We will have 3 or 4 projects throughout the semester, built up through weekly assignments. I will only grade the final versions, and you will get (and give) peer feedback on prior versions. So part of your grade will be completing the intermediate assignments satisfactorily, part of your grade will be giving adequate peer feedback, and part of your grade will be the quality of the final result.

Honor Code: I will be clarify this on the first assignment.

Late Work Policy: Since peers will be heavily reliant on you to get the intermediate assignments in on time, you will get a zero on that segment if it is late. For final versions, I will subtract 10% for every day it is late.

2 Take-home Midterm Exams (15% each).

Due approximately March 11 and April 20. These will concentrate on topics covered in that segment of the course, but the course material is very cumulative, so you will have to know everything from the course so far. You will choose a single block of 2 hours in which to work on this exam.

Honor Code: You must finish the exam within 2 hours of first opening it. You may use notes on one side of one 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper, but you may not use your textbook. You may use a scientific calculator for addition, exponentiation, etc., but you may not use statistical functions.

Final Exam (20%).

Wednesday, May 15, 7-9pm. The final will be an in-class exam and will cover the entire course.

Honor Code: You may use notes on two sides of one 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper, but you may not use your textbook. You may use a scientific calculator for addition, exponentiation, etc., but you may not use statistical functions.

Disabilities:

If you have a disability of any sort that may affect your performance in this class, please consult with me and with Jane Boomer in the Office of Disability Services. All requests for accommodation must go through that office.