

Instructor: Dr. M.B. Ulmer

Office: Hodge 218; Phone 503-5224; e-mail mulmer@uscupstate.edu

Office hours: Immediately after class each day for 45 minutes.

Also by appointment or by "heyourgottaminute?".

Text: *Understanding Basic Statistics*, 4th Edition, by Brase and Brase.

Web Site: <http://faculty.uscupstate.edu/mulmer> which has links to your course page and the Problem-Based Instruction site. Notice that the site address has no "www" in it!

Calculator and software: A graphing calculator is required. Preferred calculators (supported by the instructor) are the TI-83, TI-83Plus, or TI-84. You may use other models and brands only if you take full responsibility for being able to perform all required tasks. Most calculators do not have the same capabilities as those listed, and using another calculator is much like trying to learn from a textbook different from that used in the class. For some assignments, you may wish to use a spreadsheet like Excel.

Catalog Description: (3) The fundamentals of modern statistical methods, descriptive and inferential statistics, probability and sampling; primarily for students in fields other than mathematics who need a working knowledge of statistics. Prerequisite: high school Algebra II or equivalent.

Course Objective: The successful student will understand descriptive and inferential statistics at a level necessary to produce elementary statistical descriptions, analyses and tests, and to critically evaluate most statistical information found in today's news. He or she will also have a foundation for applying elementary statistics in courses yet to be taken in the undergraduate curriculum.

Makeup Tests are given only for good reasons, and at the instructor's convenience. Athletes and others who must miss class for University sponsored events should notify the instructor in *advance* (days in advance, not hours).

Attendance and attentiveness: A maximum of **THREE** classes may be missed. In reality, a student who misses even one session puts himself or herself at a severe disadvantage. In this summer session, we have four weeks to do what is normally done in 15 weeks in a regular term. Significant content is covered each period. You are responsible for all material covered and work assigned during an absence. Excessive tardiness is disruptive to the class, and detrimental in the same way as absence, and so, **excessive tardiness will be considered absence**. Cell phones are not to be used in class. A student who uses a cell phone in class will be given a zero daily grade. A student who uses a cell phone during a test will be given a zero on that test. (If you have an emergency situation that requires that you keep your cell phone on, notify the instructor *before class*.) (Recommendation: Do not waste your absences needlessly; you will probably be sick at some point in the term. For some reason, students tend to get sick just after their third absence!! Don't let it happen to you!!)

Grading: There will be 2 or 3 hour tests and a comprehensive final exam counting the weight of two more tests. A portfolio grade will carry the weight of another hour test.

Daily grades derived from in-class performance and pop quizzes may be used to determine the final letter grade in borderline cases. (For example, a 79 test average and excellent daily work will result in a B in the course.) [Note: If you are assigned to solve a problem at the board, only three grades are possible – 100, 50 or 0. A grade of 100 is earned for displaying work that you have previously attempted (even if it is wrong). A grade of 0 is earned if you cannot attempt the problem or if you are absent when your name is called. A grade of 50 is earned if you are knowledgeable enough to attempt the problem, but have not prepared a solution in advance.]

Grading Scale: 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60%=D; Below 60% = F. "Plus" grades may be awarded for high B, C, or D final grades if work is judged meritorious by some measure not anticipated by the above specifications. Also, please be aware of this relatively new rule: “Students who admit responsibility or who are found responsible through the Student Code of Conduct [for an academic infraction] will receive the appropriate grade determined by the professor, which may include an X to signify academic dishonesty. Grades with an X are not subject to grade forgiveness.”

Last day to withdraw without penalty: Thursday, 23 July.

Your Final Exam is Thursday, 6 August.

Notes: 1. Any student having a physical or learning disability requiring modifications of the instructional or testing environment, methods, or format, must inform the instructor of such disability the first week of class.
2. This is a tentative syllabus. Modifications may be necessary as we progress.