

Math 120H – Introduction to Statistics

Course Syllabus – Fall 2005

Course #1799 (1 unit)

Class Hours:

Mon: 7:45 – 8:50 am

Room: LA-5 (bldg. 30)



Instructor: Stephen Toner

Web Page: <http://www.stevetoner.com>

e-mail: toners@vvc.edu (Include your name in subject line)

VVC voicemail: 245-4271 ext. 2770

Office: Bldg 30 (Liberal Arts), office “U”

Fall Calendar:

Aug. 29 “Regular” Classes Begin

Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday

Nov. 7 Last day to drop with a “W” grade

Nov. 11 Veteran’s Day Holiday

Dec. 15 End of Fall semester

Office Hours: Wed: 8:05 - 8:50 am; M,T,W,Th: 11:15 - 11:45 am; and Tues: 2:05 - 3:30 pm

Required Textbook: *How to Lie with Statistics*, by Darrell Huff

Course Description: This course supplements the material in the regular Math 120 course. In addition, this Honors component will include the design of surveys, probability testing, and a research project.

You are required to attend class every day. After 1 hour of absence, you **may be dropped** from this class. It is **your responsibility** to keep your enrollment status current. You risk an “F” if you stop attending without officially withdrawing.

Grading Policies: Your grade in the honors section will count as 20% of your grade. Your grade in the “regular” Math 120 section will count as the other 80% of your grade. Your grade will then be based on the grading scale from your Math 120 teacher. Together, you will receive one grade for a five-unit honors course, listed as a single course on your transcript.

The Honors component of your grade will consist of three categories, worth 100 points each:

- Chapter write-ups for each chapter of “How to Lie with Statistics”
- Activity and participation points for in-class and HW activities (10 points each, drop lowest)
- A Project (90 points written, 10 points presentation)

Homework:

For each chapter of *How to Lie with Statistics*, you will write a short paragraph telling why you think the author titled the chapter as he did. You will also choose the example in the chapter that meant the most to you, in terms of relaying the author’s main point of the chapter, and elaborate on its practical application. Late write-ups will not be accepted. If you are absent, please e-mail it to me by the deadline. **Since this is an honors class, I expect you to use proper grammar and spelling. Do not throw your assignments together at the last minute and hope to receive full credit.** In statistics we need to be able to communicate concisely with language the points that we are trying to get across.

Class activities are meant to be done together as a class. Some will require that you finish the work started in class; others will be completed within the class meeting itself. Due to their nature, there will be no make-ups for these activities. The lowest (or missed) score in this category will be dropped prior to computing your grade.

Tentative Class Schedule

		Sections to be Covered In Class	To be turned in....
M	8/29	First week of Regular classes – no class meeting	
M	9/5	Labor Day Holiday – no class meeting	
M	9/12	Introduction, Activity #1	
M	9/19	Activity #2	HTL, Ch. 1
M	9/26	Activity #3	HTL, Ch. 2
M	10/3	Activity #4	HTL, Ch. 3
M	10/10	Activity #5	HTL, Ch. 4
M	10/17	Activity #6	HTL, Ch. 5
M	10/24	Activity #7	HTL, Ch. 6
M	10/31	Activity #8	HTL, Ch. 7
M	11/7	Activity #9	HTL, Ch. 8
M	11/14	Activity #10	HTL, Ch. 9
M	11/21	Assign / Discuss Project	HTL, Ch. 10
M	11/28	Activity #11	Project proposal
M	12/5	Activity #12	
M	12/12	Turn in/ present class projects	Project

Attendance Policy: *Class attendance is not a measure of performance or proficiency. Whether a student is just physically present in the class is not a valid basis for grading. Reference Title 5 Section 55002 of the California Code of Regulations: (A) Grading Policy. The course provides for measurement of student performance in terms of stated course objectives and culminates in a formal, permanently recorded grade based upon uniform standards in accordance with section 55758 of this Division. The grade is based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter and the ability to demonstrate that proficiency, at least in part, by means of written expression that may include essays, or, in courses where the curriculum committee deems them to be appropriate, by problem solving exercises or skills demonstrations by students.*

Grade Sheet for Math 120 Project

		<u>Required Elements:</u>			<u>Study:</u>
___	5	Typed	___	5	Question (Everyday English)
___	2	Cover Page	___	5	Sampling Method (precise)
___	2	Abstract	___	5	Significant Test & P-Value
___	2	Study			
___	2	Discussion			<u>Discussion & Conclusions:</u>
___	2	Conclusions	___	10	Strengths & Weaknesses
___	5	Actual Data Sheet	___	10	Extraneous Variables
			___	5	Impress Mr. Toner
		<u>Abstract:</u>			
___	5	Clarity	___	5	Difficulty level of Topic / Effort
___	5	Relevant Topic; Two Populations	___	10	Presentation
___	10	Completeness in covering Crucial Points			
___	5	Subjective Impression	___		Points deducted (late, etc.)
			___	100	Total Points