

Statistics 301, Fall Semester, 2008,

Lectures 3 and 4

Calendar, Exam Schedule and Important Miscellaneous Comments

Being a TR class, our class begins on Tuesday, September 2, and the last class day is Thursday, December 11. This gives us a total of 29 class periods. It is important to me that you receive 29 periods of contact, to reflect your commitment of time and resources to this semester and that I deliver 29 periods of contact, to reflect my professional commitment. But we will not adhere strictly to the university calendar. I apologize if my changes cause you problems; if they do, please meet with me about it.

Important Dates to Note: We will have two extra class periods. These will be for reviews for the midterm and final. These reviews will be held at times and locations that will be announced. Each review will last 75 minutes and there will be two or three time/day options for you.

To balance these two extra class periods, I will cancel two scheduled class periods:

- **No class on Tuesday, November 25 (the week of Thanksgiving)**
- **No class on a day to be determined and announced (a snow day?)** Note: If I do not cancel a second class, then the review for the final will be on the last class day, December 11.

Exams are open book and notes and you will need a calculator.

Midterm Exam: There will be one midterm exam; it will be held on Thursday, October 23, in the lecture room. It will cover Chapters 1–3, 5 and 6. There will be two options for the time of the midterm:

- 12:50–2:15
- 2:30–3:55

You must take the midterm at the time you are registered for the course, but you may request a change to the other exam time. In order to change your exam time, I must receive the request at least 72 hours before the midterm begins and I must approve it. If you take the exam at the wrong time, I might decide to reduce your exam score.

The two lectures have different final times/days:

- Lecture 3 (1:00 TR): 2:45–4:45 on Friday, December 19.
- Lecture 4 (2:30 TR): 10:05–12:05 on Tuesday, December 16.

As with the midterm, you may request taking the final at the time above that is not yours. Or, of course, you may take it at your scheduled time. I will announce the rooms for the finals when they are available; they will not be in the lecture room.

You should note that the final is a final in name only; that is, it is not cumulative. It covers Chapters 7, 12, 15, 16, 8 and 13, and does not cover the material tested on the midterm.

A note on cheating on the exams. Don't do it. If I catch anyone cheating, I might choose to pursue it to the full extent through the university's system for handling cheating, which could result in your expulsion from school.

At the cost of extra work to me, I use a system that makes successful cheating much more difficult for the student. I offer its details now because my goals are to dissuade cheating and reassure honest students. My goal is not to entrap people.

My system is described below.

Each exam consists of a number of problems. I create three versions of each problem. The versions are, by my design and in my opinion, of equal difficulty and cover exactly the same material/concepts. They simply have somewhat different numbers in them. I mix the different versions of each question in many ways to create 20 or more distinct exams. The people sitting around you possibly have no problems in common with you or, at most, a small number of problems in common. Thus, if you copy answers from a neighbor, chances are you will be writing down numbers that are not on your exam. When I find such answers, I give them no partial credit. Here is a simple example of what I mean.

Exercise 1 asks you to calculate the area of a rectangle (base times height). Version 1 has a base of 5 and a height of 12. Version 2 has a base of 7 and a height of 18. If a person with Version 2 writes on his/her paper: $5(12) = 60$, then the person will receive 0 points for this wrong answer. If I find several such 'borrowed' answers on an exam I might choose to pursue charges of academic misconduct against the student.