

Statistics 301, Spring Semester, 2008,

Lectures 1, 2 and 6

Calendar, Exam Schedule and Important Miscellaneous Comments

Being a MWF class, our class begins on Wednesday, January 23, and the last class day is Friday, May 9. This gives us a total of 44 class periods. It is important to me that you receive 44 periods of contact, to reflect your commitment of time and resources to this semester and that I deliver 44 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 three extra class periods. These will be for reviews for each of the two midterms and the final. These reviews will be held at times and locations that will be announced. Each review will last 75 minutes and there will be three time/location options for you.

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

- **No class on Friday, February 1**
- **No class on Friday, March 14**
- **No class on a day to be determined and announced (a snow day?)**

Midterms: There will be two midterm exams; they will be held in the lecture room, 331 SMI.

- The first midterm will be given during class time on Monday, March 3, and will cover Chapters 1–3.
- The second midterm will be given during class time on Monday, April 7, and will cover Chapters 5–7.

You must take the midterm at the time you are registered for the course. You may request a change to one of the other exam times, but I must receive the request at least 72 hours before the midterm begins and I must approve the request. If you take the exam at the wrong time, I might decide to give you a 0 on the exam.

Something ‘funny’ happened during the final last semester which probably reflected an attempt at cheating. If something similar happens this semester or if I simply decide that I want to do so, I reserve the right to **assign** you to seats for the second midterm and/or final exam.

The three lectures have three different final times/days:

- Lecture 1 (9:55 MWF): 12:25–2:25 on Thursday, May 15.
- Lecture 2 (11:00 MWF): 2:45–4:45 on Sunday, May 11.
- Lecture 6 (8:50 MWF): 12:25–2:25 on Monday, May 12.

As with the midterms, you may request taking the final at either of the two times above that is not yours. Or, of course, you may take it at your scheduled time.

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