Stat 200: Introduction to Statistics
Course Contract

General:
- Instructor: Skip Thompson
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- Office: Walker 241
- Office Hours: TBA
- Telephone: 831–5478

Required Text:

Required Calculator:
You must have a TI-83, TI-83+, TI-84, or TI-84+ calculator for this course. We will rely very heavily on the calculator to perform various calculations. You need to use one of these calculators even if you have another calculator with statistical functions since class and text instruction will be provided only for these TI calculators. Note that TI-85 – TI-92 calculators curiously do NOT have the statistical functions necessary for this course. Use of calculators is permitted for all homework and exams. Sharing of calculators during exams is not permitted.

Course Topics:
1. Descriptive Statistics – Pictures and Summary Measures (text sections: 1.1–1.3, 2.1–2.7, and 3.1)
2. Random Variables and Probability Distributions – Discrete and Continuous pdfs and Sampling Distributions (text sections: 4.1, 6.1–6.4, and supplementary material on discrete probability distributions)
3. Inferential Statistics – Confidence Intervals and Hypothesis Testing (text sections: 7.1–7.3, 8.1–8.5, and 9.1)

Grading Policy:
We will have three chapter exams and a comprehensive final exam. Although each of the first three exams will concentrate on the material for that exam, previous material may be included directly or indirectly. Your score on the final exam will replace any lower score on the first three
exams. Your three highest adjusted exam scores will constitute your course grade. Your course grade will be determined on a 90–80–70–60% basis. Exams are generally closed book, closed notes; but you may use a reasonable number of index cards containing formulas. Each exam will consist of problems similar to those assigned from the text and others discussed in class. Each will also contain questions which will test your understanding of the examples given in the text. No makeup exams will be given. If you miss an exam for any reason, your grade on the final exam will replace the missed exam.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all class meetings is expected and strongly recommended: it is essential that you attend class regularly. 10% will be added to the final grade of any student who misses no more than three classes. (Example: If your course grade is 76% (a C) and you miss no more than three classes, your grade would be adjusted to 86% (a B). If your course grade is 76% and you have missed more than three classes, your course grade will be a C.) It’s your responsibility to sign the class roll each day. It’s not possible at the end of the semester to realize you forgot to sign the roll several times and have an adjustment made. Signing for other people, leaving class early, or forgetting to come back after break are no–noes. Students who don’t come to class regularly leave a very negative impression with the instructor. So do students who don’t participate (constructively) in class.

Homework:

Homework problems will be assigned for each class meeting. Another of the traps you can fall into is to not do the homework regularly and to try to simply rely on the solutions which are presented in class: it doesn’t work. The old adage not Mathematics is not a good spectator sport was never truer than in this course. Although homework problems will not be taken up and checked (unless you so desire), you should do your best to do them yourself before we discuss them in class. In connection with working homework problems, a trap is to not study the examples in the text and the ones we go over in class. Finally, a mistake often made is to get two or three sections behind rather than work the homework problems on a regular basis. This is particularly important since the level of difficulty progresses throughout the course.

Attendance and Homework, One More Time:

I will help you succeed in this course to the best of my ability; but in the final analysis, it is your responsibility to master the concepts and material we discuss. Students who come to class regularly, make a conscientious effort to do the homework, help out in class, and do not throw sharp objects at the instructor (in or out of class!) leave a very good impression with the instructor, and
almost always succeed in the course. Students who don’t do all of the first three items (and those who do the fourth) do not leave a good impression: they never get a break in borderline cases.

**Additional Help:**

You are welcome and urged to come to my office during office hours or when you can catch me there at other times. You can always catch me there if you let me know you’re coming the previous day, say.

**Cold Heart Policy:**

The instructor will bring and play a violin for anyone who forgets to bring a calculator, index cards, or bribe money on exam days. Singing along, while optional, will be encouraged.

**Computer Assignments:**

There will be no computer assignments since we will concentrate on the use of the TI-83 calculator.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with the Disability Resource Office which is located in Room 32 of Tyler Hall. The telephone number is 831–6350. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper forms from the DRO and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

**Radford University Honor Code Policy:**

By accepting admission to Radford University, each student makes a commitment to understand, support, and abide by the University Honor Code without compromise or exception. Violations of this academic integrity will not be tolerated. This class will be conducted in strict observance of the Honor Code. Refer to your Student Handbook for details.