

Econ 400-001: Economic Statistics

UNC at Chapel Hill
Economics Department
Summer 2010

Instructor Information:

Mike Aguilar

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Office Hours: M,W,F 2pm-3pm, or by appointment

Lecture Schedule:

Lecture: M,T,W,R,F 11:30am - 1:00pm Gardner Hall Room 106

Course Materials:

Required Text: *A Brief Course in Business Statistics*, 2nd edition, by Mendenhall, Beaver, and Beaver; Thomson / South-Western; ISBN-13: 978-0-534-38130-1.

Required Software:

- **Blackboard:** Assignments, announcements, grades, readings, and other information will be posted at blackboard.unc.edu. Blackboard will be the primary method of communication for this course, so please check it frequently.
- **STATA:** STATA is a statistical analysis software that we will use throughout the semester. In-Class examples often will be completed in STATA. Moreover, many (if not all) of your homework assignments will require analyzing data in STATA. You have two main options for accessing STATA: i) Use the ITS labs on campus, which have STATA loaded, or ii) You may purchase STATA at a discounted price. Visit <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-direct.html> for ordering information. We will be using STATA/IC 11. Product codes ICGP6 (6mth license), ICGPA (1yr license), and ICGP (perpetual license) are suitable for our class. *Note: If you wish to pursue Econ 570 or write an empirical paper for any of your future classes, the perpetual license might be preferable.*

Course Goals:

By the end of the course you should be comfortable with the foundations of statistical theory. Moreover, you should be able to employ common statistical techniques to answer basic research questions regarding the relationship among economic variables. Along the way, you will develop a level of proficiency with STATA, which will be useful in myriad empirical situations throughout your career.

Grading	% of Course Grade	Date	Details & Policy
Final Exam	(25%)	07/22/10 11:30am - 2:30pm	Comprehensive exam. Missing the Final Exam without a valid excuse from the Dean will result in a zero exam score.
Midterm Exam	(25%)	07/02/10 11:30am - 1:00pm	Missing the Midterm Exam without an "excused" absence results in a zero score for this test. If you miss the Midterm Exam with an "excused" absence, the Final Exam will count for 50% of the course grade.
Homework	(50%)	TBD	There will be approximately six homeworks throughout the semester. You may drop the assignment with the lowest score. No late assignments will be accepted. No "make-ups" will be given. If you miss an assignment due to an "excused" absence, your Homework grade will be reweighted among the remaining homework assignments.

Students associated with Disability Services must contact me one week prior to each Test.

Excused Absences: Illness or participation in University sanctioned activities. Documentation from coach or doctor must be provided. You must fill out the "Excused Absence" form found on the Blackboard site, and turn it in to me as soon as possible.

Letter grades are computed from the total points earned during the semester and assigned based on the scale nearby. There is no maximum number of A's nor B's awarded. However, in previous courses 15% – 20% of my students have earned in the A range, 30% – 50% have earned in the B range, and 20% – 30% have earned in the C range. Although the grade distribution may change this semester, the past scores should give you a sense of my grading standards.

A	$x \geq 95\%$
A-	$90 \leq x < 95$
B+	$85 \leq x < 90$
B	$80 \leq x < 85$
B-	$75 \leq x < 80$
C+	$70 \leq x < 75$
C	$65 \leq x < 70$
C-	$60 \leq x < 65$
D+	$50 \leq x < 60$
D	$40 \leq x < 50$
F	$x < 40$