

STA 201F: Why Numbers Matter (Fall, 2014)

This course teaches non-science students the importance of quantitative reasoning to many different areas. It explores a variety of applications to such diverse subjects as economics, gambling, politics, poetry, graphics, music, medicine, demographics, sports, secret codes, and more, using only basic high school level mathematics combined with logical thinking.

Instructor: Professor [Jeffrey Rosenthal](#), Department of Statistics, University of Toronto. Sidney Smith Hall, room 5016B; phone 416-978-4594; <http://probability.ca/jeff/>;
jeff@math.toronto.edu

Time and Location: Mondays 2:10 - 3:00 and Wednesdays 1:10 - 3:00 (location TBA). First class Sept 8. Last class Dec 1. No class Oct 13 (Thanksgiving) nor Nov 17 (Fall Break). Final exam some time during December 8-19.

Exclusion: This course is **not** open to **first-year** students, **nor** to students enrolled in any **science** Major or Specialist program.

Evaluation:

12% *iClicker* class participation (throughout the term);
22% Term test #1 (on Oct 15 during class time, location TBA);
22% Term test #2 (on Nov 12 during class time, location TBA);
44% Final exam (some time during December 8-19).

Note: Students should obtain an *iClicker* device, available for purchase from the [University of Toronto bookstore](#) [unless they select the [alternative grading option](#)], and **bring it to every class**. Then, by Monday Sept 22, they should **register it** online by following the instructions given in class.

Textbook: None. The course instructor will post summary lecture notes on the course's Blackboard page -- but they are *not* a substitute for attending and actively learning from the course lectures. Students wanting additional background reading can optionally consult the instructor's somewhat-related book [Struck by Lightning](#).

More Information: See the course's [Blackboard](#) web page.

This document is available at www.probability.ca/sta201 or permanently at www.probability.ca/jeff/teaching/1415/sta201/