

STA220F - The Practice of Statistics - Fall 2011
Course homepage accessible from the U of T Portal at <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

This course (in combination with STA221H) presents the basic statistical methodology used in many fields of application. It emphasizes concepts and techniques and will be useful to students who seek to gain an understanding of the use of statistics in their own fields. Students seeking a more theoretical or mathematical development of the subject should consider STA250+255 or STA 257+261. However, STA220+STA221 will be accepted in lieu of STA250H as a prerequisite for STA255, after which, (limited) further studies in Statistics may be pursued.

Tutorials - starting Sept. 19-20

Tutorials meet for one hour per week. The major purpose of tutorial is discussion and review of course material; no new material will be covered. In preparation for tutorial, you should do the weekly assignment, which will be posted at the course web page. **Assignment #1 (to be posted at the web site) is due at your first tutorial.** These assignments will be discussed at tutorial; solutions will not be posted.

There will be some brief assessment grade at each tutorial (0 – 5 scale) based on either a brief quiz or classroom discussion/participation. This assessment is meant to encourage and reward you for keeping up with the work, but is not sufficient to provide meaningful feedback on your achievement level or to prepare you for tests. At the end of term, your TA will submit a 0 -10 grade for you. All TAs will be required to submit similar grades at course end (i.e. similar percentage of 10's, 9's, etc.), regardless of whether the quiz average is 2 or 5, so there will be no disadvantage due to your TA's particular approach. Make a good consistent effort throughout the term, as we expect of the majority of students, and you can expect to receive at least 9 marks out of 10. **The location of your tutorial will be posted on the course web page** prior to 10am, Sept 19. Records are kept by tutorial so please attend the one you are properly enrolled in, **to prevent missing marks.**

If you miss a tutorial/quiz due to illness, late enrolment, etc., please discuss with your TA, and not your lecturer or the course coordinator. Your TA has full discretionary power to deal with, and adjust tutorial grades for, such things. If ill, bring some proof.

Course Content

Content, emphasis, etc. of the course is defined by means of the lecture - *not the texts*. It is important to attend all lectures, as there is normally no simple way to make up for missed lectures. There will also be many lecture examples using Minitab, the statistical software chosen for this course. *Important announcements, problem sets, handouts, practice tests, tutorial and aid centre info, etc., will be posted on the course homepage, or occasionally emailed out.* **So check the web site (via the portal) and your UTOReil account regularly.**

Required Text

Stats: Data and Models, First Canadian Edition., by DeVeaux, Velleman, et al (Pearson). *Abbreviated SDM.* Do not purchase U.S. editions of the text. **We strongly recommend** that you buy the text *bundled together* with the Minitab software (student release 14), which gives you the Minitab software at a *big discount*. **Don't confuse the Minitab software installation CD with the text resource DVD which is included with every text.** Note that Minitab software runs only on the Windows operation system. Minitab software will also be available to everyone via the CQUEST computing labs on campus (see *Computing* below).

You can avoid some frustration, by ordering online from the bookstore: www.uoftbookstore.com/online/
The web site www.mymathlab has additional learning aids such as online quizzes and exercises, interactive applets, podcasts, animations, and a student solutions manual. Your lecturer will give you the required access code for this course.

Additional Sources of Help (starting Sept. 19)

Your primary source of help with difficulties is your TA in the scheduled tutorial, but additional assistance will be

available at the **Statistics Aid Centre**, Room 1091, in Sidney Smith Hall and the **CQUEST** computing site in the Ramsey Wright building (info at www.cquest.utoronto.ca). A schedule will be posted at the course website. Your own TA will be available for help at one or both of these sites for a total of two hours per week, but you can always drop in on any Sta220 TA present.

You may also obtain help with course material at the **New College Stat Aid Centre**, in Wetmore Hall 68A (enter from Huron St), where we will have Statistics TAs present, for 15 - 20 hours per week, to help with various intro stats courses including STA220. Go to <http://www.utstat.utoronto.ca> and look for an *Stat Aid Centres* side-link to see the precise schedule.

Additional Help

There are electronic discussion forums at the course web page where you can communicate with other students in the course, as well as with the course lecturers (please use in place of email). For very general administrative queries, the Statistics departmental office can be reached at stats@utstat.utoronto.ca or 416-978-3452.

Evaluation

Your tutorial grade is worth 10% of your final grade. The remaining portion of your grade will be equal to either $\{0.35 \times \text{Term Test} + 0.55 \times \text{Final Exam}\}$, or $\{0.15 \times \text{Term Test} + 0.75 \times \text{Final Exam}\}$, whichever is higher.

The date and time of the term test are: TBA.

It will be written in various rooms across campus - check the course web page later for locations. There will be an alternative writing time, for those with *proof of a conflict*. If this applies to you, be sure to submit your course schedule to your lecturer *2 weeks before the test date*.

Though tests/exams place a very minor emphasis on formulae, you are allowed a one-sided 8-1/2"x 11" (standard letter size) hand-written aid sheet on the term test (two-sided on final exam). **Programmable calculators are not permitted on tests or exam. You must bring your student identification to term tests as well as the final exam.**

The final exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions (5 choices each). A correct answer receives 3.33 marks. An unanswered question receives 0.67 marks. The term test is, for the most part, not multiple-choice. Both will be similar in format to some old term tests and final exams that will be posted at the course web page.

Missed Tests

There are **no make-up tests**. Should you miss the term test due to illness, you are required to submit, within one week, a **'U of T Student Medical Certificate'**, completed by your doctor, to your lecturer or to SS6018 (Stats office). You can obtain this form from your college registrar, the Office of the Faculty Registrar (SS1006), or the Koffler health service. *The test's weight will be shifted to the exam. If this documentation is not received, your test mark will be zero.*

Calculators

Hand calculators are cheap and useful. Any cheap one with a square root button and basic memory will do. Mean, standard deviation, sum, and sum of squares keys may save you a bit of time on occasion, but we do not recommend the purchase of expensive calculators to get keys with special statistical calculations. Tests and exams will be designed so that those calculators give no advantage. We emphasize the use of Minitab software for doing any tedious or complex calculations.

Computing

Students will be using, on a weekly basis, the Minitab Statistical Computing Software, either at home (if you purchase the student version of Minitab bundled inexpensively with the text), or at the CQUEST computing facilities at the University of Toronto - go to www.cquest.utoronto.ca for info about accounts, rooms, hours of operation, etc. You will use this software to analyze data sets used in the text exercises. These data sets can be found on the DVD accompanying the textbook, at the web site http://wps.pearsoned.ca/ca_ph_deveaux/204/52457/13429053.cw/index.html or at www.mymathlab.com. It is also