

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY
School of Mathematics and Statistics
STAT 1021 (General Statistical Methods 1)

2010: General Information

Course Co-ordinator/lecturer : Dr Howard D'ABRERA (Room 527 Carslaw)
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First Year Office : Carslaw Level 5, Room 520
Noticeboard : Level 8 Carslaw (to the right of the stairs opposite the elevators).
Homework Noticeboard : Go up the stairs opposite the elevators on level 8 Carslaw.
(It is at level 8-½).
Homework : Place in the white boxes opposite the lifts on level 8.

The course is worth 6 credit points; the assumed knowledge is General Mathematics . (If you feel that your background is inadequate please consult me in the first two weeks of the semester.)

Lectures:

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Carslaw LT 175
Wednesday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Carslaw LT 175
Thursday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. in Carslaw LT 175

Lectures commence on Tuesday 2 March and the last lecture is on Thursday 3 June.
The end of semester examinations start on Tuesday June 15. There are 39 lectures with a break in lectures from Friday 2 April to Sunday 11 April (the Easter break).
You should attend all three lectures per week plus one tutorial allocated from:

Tutorials: START IN WEEK 2 (First tutorial will be on Tuesday 9 March)

Group A : Tuesday 11 a.m. in Carslaw Lab 610
Group B : Tuesday 1 pm in Carslaw Lab 610

In addition, there is an **OPTIONAL TUTORIAL** at which attendance is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**. **This will commence in Week 2** (and will be in Carslaw Lab 610/611 on Thursday at 3PM). The purpose of this tutorial will be explained in the lectures in Week 1.

Copies of the overheads used in lectures and Excel notes are available from Kopystop (55 Mountain Street, Broadway. Telephone: 9211 2733). You should purchase sets as soon as possible and **bring the relevant pages to each lecture and the relevant notes to tutorials and labs.**

Textbooks:

The required textbook is “*Statistics*” (**4th Edition**) by Freedman, Pisani and Purves (available at the Co-Op Bookshop). We will try to get to Chapter 29 by the end of the Semester. Most of the tutorial and homework questions will be taken from the textbook.

Homework Assignments:

There will be 2 Homework Assignments during the semester. The (tentative) dates for turning in completed homework are:

Wednesday April 14 by 3 p.m.

Wednesday May 5 by 3 p.m.

Completed homework assignments should be placed in the white cupboard opposite the lifts on level 8 of Carslaw. There is a slot for General Statistical Methods (STAT 1021)

NO LATE HOMEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.

When turning in your homework you should put your **name, SID and Tutorial group (A or B)** on the **top right hand** corner of the first page.

Solutions to the homework will be posted on level 8½ in Carslaw (exit the elevator in Carslaw on level 8 and go up the stairs in front of the elevator leading to the roof) and also sent to **the Copy Centre** (Shop 2 Ground level, Sports and Aquatic Centre). Marked homework will be given back in tutorials.

Tutorials/Labs:

These meet every week and the work covered will be on the tutorial worksheets. Some problems are marked **R**. These problems may be subject to review. The tutors will be sure to cover problems marked **R**. **Any problems not covered in the labs will be looked at in the optional tutorial. You are expected to attend your allocated weekly tutorial/labs and will get 10% for attendance and participation.**

Homework and Tutorial Review:

The tentative date for the Review is Thursday 21 May in the lecture. The Review will cover questions similar to the **R** questions in tutorials and the previous Homework questions. The material covered will include everything up to and including Week 10. This Review will be conducted in a “closed book” fashion, i.e. without the aid of lecture notes or textbooks. The review is worth 15% and can help boost your course mark according to the procedure outlined below.

Assessment:

The two homework assignments are worth a total of 15% (7.5% each). There is a 3-hour examination at the end of the semester. For each student three scores are computed.

A: 10% (tutorials) + 90% (examination)

B: 10% (tutorials) + 15% (homework) + 75% (examination)

C: 10% (tutorials) + 15% (homework) + 15% (review) + 60% (examination).

Provided you have a satisfactory tutorial attendance record and have attempted the homework assignments, you will get the highest score of A, B or C as your raw course mark out of 100. Course grades are awarded as follows:

High Distinction	: a final course mark over 85
Distinction	: a final course mark from 75 to 84
Credit	: a final course mark from 65 to 74
Pass	: a final course mark from 50 to 64

High Distinctions are normally only awarded to students whose work has been **outstanding in all aspects.**

The student whose performance is outstanding in STAT 1021 is eligible to be awarded the Veronica Thomas prize. The prize carries a financial reward and is noted on your official transcript.

Some *do's*

1. **Keep up with lectures.** If for some reason you miss a lecture make sure you get the lecture notes from a friend as soon as possible. Try to come to each lecture having at least read the previous lecture material.
2. **Make sure that you attend tutorials.** If for some reason you miss your tutorial go to any other tutorial for that week. We will go over problems like the ones you have to do for homework so tutorials are vital for learning *how to tackle problems on your own*. Tutorials are more informal than lectures so don't be afraid to "speak up" in tutorials. **Rolls will be kept in tutorials.**
3. *Always bring the Freedman text and a calculator to tutorials and bring the relevant notes to the lab session.*
4. Try to spread your homework out, perhaps try a problem a night rather than leaving it all for the last minute.
5. Seek help from the lecturer if you need it.

Some *don'ts*

1. Don't leave your homework for the last minute.
2. Don't miss lectures and slip behind, hoping to "catch up" in study week (after the last lecture). Don't expect this to happen. Chances are that you will fail the end-of-semester exam.
3. Don't copy someone else's homework. **YOU MAY DISCUSS A PROBLEM WITH SOMEONE ELSE BUT THE WORK YOU TURN IN MUST BE YOUR OWN.**
4. Don't be scared of the maths in this course, it's quite non-threatening. However if you are having trouble see the lecturer or contact the Mathematics Learning Centre (Room 441 in the Carslaw Building; Telephone 9351 4061) if you feel your prior math background inadequate.
5. Don't forget to put your name and tutorial group label (A or B) on all your homework assignments.

Some General Remarks:

1. Remember GSM is a terminating course.
2. If you wish to do more STAT modules in second year remember that some modules need first year MATH. See me if interested.
3. **Remember if you have any problems please see me as soon as possible. I am there to help make this course a pleasant learning experience. I hope that you will benefit from the course and that at the end of the semester you will be able to say "I am really glad I took STAT 1021".**