WELCOME TO PSTAT 5A!

CLASS INFORMATION

INSTRUCTOR
Dr. D. E. Holmes
South Hall 5506
Email: holmes@pstat.ucsb.edu

LECTURES
IV THEA 1
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.00am - 9.50am

INSTRUCTORS OFFICE HOURS
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am - 12.00noon.
Other times by appointment. Please email me.

TEXTBOOK
StatClass. (2nd Edition)
Dawn E. Holmes and Lubella A. Lenaburg.
McGraw-Hill. (Available at UCEN BookStore)

ABOUT THE COURSE
PSTAT 5A Introductory Statistics (5). Prerequisite: High school algebra (the Algebra Diagnostic Test, administered by the Mathematics Department, is recommended prior to enrolling in this course.) The course covers descriptive methods, histograms, measures of central tendency and spread, probability and random variables, binomial distribution, normal distribution, t distribution, confidence intervals, tests of significance, inference for proportions, regression and correlation. This course is part of the general education of non-mathematical students. The emphasis is on the elements of statistical thinking, not on mathematical derivations. However, in order to explain statistical ideas it will be necessary to use some simple mathematics, but this will be kept to a minimum. We will be studying data and chance. These are generally present in our experience of the world. For example, in literary and historical studies, political and social analysis of human societies as well as in experimental science.

Students learn to construct reasoned arguments based on numerical data. Concepts will be important as well as calculation. An open mind and a willingness to study are also essential.

HOW THE COURSE IS STRUCTURED
You are required to attend three lectures and two 1 hour discussion sections each week. In addition, you are expected to do about 10 hour’s private study a week.

One discussion section each week will be in the computer lab.
One discussion section each week will be in the classroom.
SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO GET THE GRADE YOU WANT
✓ Attend all the lectures. Lectures will contain material and examples that are not available elsewhere.

✓ Do all the recommended exercises.

✓ Encourage other members of your discussion section to do well. Grades are not given on a competitive basis.

✓ Bring problems to the attention of your teaching assistant and/or the instructor. We are all there to help you in this course.

✓ Don't miss section or tests - no make-ups will be given.

✓ Budget your time to ensure you can spend 10 hours a week in addition to the lectures and discussion sections.

THE COURSE WEBSITE
Homework will be posted each week on the course website. All homework will be set with a view to providing you with the skills required for the assessments. If you cannot do the homework, please seek help, otherwise you will not understand subsequent lectures. Homework is not graded.

Prior to the midterm and the final, practice exam papers with solutions will be available on the website. It is important that you familiarize yourself with the style and content of these exam papers. Your TA will help.

ASSESSMENT
During tests, you will NOT be allowed to consult your textbook or any notes. All relevant formulas will be provided. Please bring your calculator (make sure that you know how to use it and that it is in full working order).

Work completed during lab section: 10%
Work completed during classroom section: 10%
Test 1 15%
Test 2 15%
Test 3 15%
Final 35% (2 hours)

Important Dates:
Test 1 Friday Week 3
Test 2 Friday Week 5
Test 3 Friday Week 7
Final

There will be no make-up tests. No exceptions!
It is your responsibility to ensure that you are available at the designated assessment times.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Any student caught cheating in PSTAT 5A will be given an 'F' for the course. Further disciplinary measures may be taken. This rule applies to all aspects of the course.

PROCEDURE FOR QUERYING TEST GRADES
Tests will be handed back during section by your TA. Before handing back any Tests, your TA will solve the problems on the board. S/he will then see each of you individually, to look at your Test before handing it back.
Once it has been handed back to you, NO GRADE CHANGES WILL BE MADE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

GRADING
As a general guideline, the grades will be given approximately as follows:

A 20%
B 30%
C 40%
D 10%

If the class performs particularly well, then more than 20% will get an 'A'. If the class performs badly, then fewer than 20% will get an 'A'.

GETTING HELP
If you are having difficulty solving the worksheet problems, see your TA. You have 2 hours of section every week; make full use of it by having specific questions to ask your TA. Your TA also holds office hours.

If you are having difficulty understanding the lectures, see the Instructor during office hours.

Use the Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS). CLAS tutors, who are graduate and undergraduate UCSB students, are free of charge to UCSB undergraduate students.

Work with a friend or group of friends.

See the Department website for a list of tutors.

Warning: Private tutors who may offer their services to you. These tutors are not affiliated to, or endorsed by, PSTAT 5A or UCSB. You are strongly recommended NOT to use them. Students who have used private tutors report that many charge very large sums of money, sometimes do not show up for tutoring sessions, and teach material in ways that are inconsistent with instruction in PSTAT 5A. In fact, some students report that they failed exams because their private tutor completely misled them.

WORK LOAD
This is a 5-unit course and therefore, according to University regulations, it carries a workload of about 15 hours per week. This includes lectures and sections. The remainder of the time being private study.

CALCULATORS
You will need to learn to use your calculator for arithmetic and some statistical calculations. You will need a calculator that claims to do 'two-variable statistics' or mentions correlation.

! IMPORTANT!

Please note: There will be no classes on these public holidays:
Monday January 19, 2015
Monday February 16, 2015