

**STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS
AND REGRESSION ANALYSIS,
PROFESSOR HURVICH, C22.0103.05**

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From this site, you can download the course handouts, in pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format.

Data sets and other materials will also be available here.

Telephone: (212) 998-0449.

Office: Room 8-52, Kaufman Management Center.

Office Hours: 3:30-4:15, Monday, Wednesday.

In fact, you're welcome to drop by my office any time.

Typically, I'm free Mondays and Wednesdays, until about 5:30.

Textbook:

McClave, Benson and Sincich, *Statistics for Business and Economics*, Custom Edition for New York University, Prentice-Hall, 2008. (If you have Edition 10e you can use it as well. All page numbers and problems in the NYU edition match those of the larger Edition 10e.) I don't require that you buy the book, but I will assign problems from it, and you will need to use some of the tables in the back. The course lectures, handouts, labs and homework assignments are the material you will be held responsible for. The text may be considered as supplementary reading. Hopefully, you will find it helpful. For the most part, I will stick to the notation used in the book. There is a file called "Readings" in the Homework section of the course website which gives details on which sections of the book go with which of my handouts.

Software:

We will use Minitab, Release 15, for data analysis. A student version of this software is included with the textbook by the NYU bookstore. Minitab 15 will be available in the computer labs, and on Citrix. The differences between Minitab 15 and the student version are minor. You can also rent Minitab 15 for a fixed time period (a certain number of months) from www.e-academy.com. This only works for the agreed-upon time period.

Grading Policy

We will have weekly homeworks, two midterms, a final exam, a project, several labs, and several two-minute memos. Your grade will be based on these, as well as class participation. The details follow.

LABS:

The labs (given as separate handouts) are simple activities that help you to see statistical ideas in action. We will present summaries of the data you collect for these labs, and use them to help explain some of the concepts of statistics. Your job is simply to perform the activity (it should only take a few minutes), and fill out a form to provide us with your data.

The labs count for 5% of the grade. They need to be handed in on time (so that we can tabulate the results), and will not be accepted late.

HOMEWORK:

The homeworks count for 10% of the grade. They should be handed in on time. You are allowed two late homeworks (up to one week late) without penalty. After that, any late homeworks will be assessed a penalty of 20%. No homework will be accepted more than one week after the due date. Homework will be graded numerically. If there's a particular problem you would like the grader to comment on, please indicate this clearly at the top of your paper. Partial solutions to some homework problems will be posted periodically on Blackboard (not on the course website), under Communication → Discussion Board.

PROJECT:

There will be a project, which counts for 10% of the grade. In the project, you will analyze a data set of your choice, using methods you have learned in the course. You can do the project by yourself, or in a group with at most two other people. The project will be broken down into short modules, spread over the entire semester. For each module, the group should submit just one writeup, with all names on it. Modules handed in more than one week late (or more than two days late in the case of the final module) will not be accepted. Late modules handed in before this deadline will be accepted without penalty if it is the first time, but a 20% penalty will be imposed for subsequent late submissions. When each module is handed in, the previous modules should be attached, but these will not be re-graded. More details on the project will be available on the course website.

EXAMS:

The exams count for 70% of the grade. Makeup exams will not be offered. Exams are open-book, open-notes. Midterm exam questions will be multiple choice. On these questions, the answer is graded as correct or incorrect: there is no partial credit, but there is no penalty for guessing. The exam part of your grade will be the highest of the following two numbers:

- (1) Your score on the final exam,
- (2) 50% (Final Exam) + 50% (Average of two midterm scores).

Examples: Midterm 1 = 75, Midterm 2 = 95, Final Exam = 85, Exam Grade = 85.
Midterm 1 = 0, Midterm 2 = 60, Final Exam = 95, Exam Grade = 95.

Note that because of (1), even if your performance on the midterms is not good, you still can get an A by doing well on the final exam.

TWO-MINUTE MEMOS:

The two-minute memos (5% of the grade) are very short documents you will write in class and hand in immediately. They will not be accepted late. The purpose is to ensure that the lines of communication between us remain open.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

I expect you to take an active role in learning Statistics. I will call on you, and I want you to ask questions. Please don't be afraid to speak up, especially if you do not understand something. This helps me to identify points which I haven't explained well enough. I will reward your efforts to participate. If you show me that you are actively and consistently participating and involving yourself in the learning process, I will boost your final grade by up to two points, for example, $B^+ \rightarrow A$.

ATTENDANCE:

Mandatory. If you miss class frequently, I will get in touch with you.

SEATING:

Please select a seat which you will keep for the entire semester. During the fourth class meeting, I will pass around a seating chart which you will use to register your selection. At the beginning of the fifth class meeting, please give me an index card with your photo attached, giving your name, seat number, class, and any other information you would like to provide. The use of fixed seating helps me in getting to know you, in keeping track of attendance, and in giving credit for class participation.