e-mail: cmh1@stern.nyu.edu

Website: http://www.stern.nyu.edu/~churvich

From this site, you can download the course handouts, in pdf format. Data sets, homeworks, sample exams and labs will also be available there. In addition, I will use Brightspace to re-post some of the materials from the course website, and to post commentaries and homework solutions. Please note, however, that the data sets are available only on the course website, not on Brightspace.

Telephone: (212) 998-0449.

Office: Room 8-52, Kaufman Management Center.

Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00-2:00, by Zoom. If this time does not work for you, we can arrange an alternative Zoom session.

Textbook:
I will not be using a textbook in this course. I will use my own notation, which may not coincide exactly with the notation in any particular textbook. My course materials reflect my point of view about statistics and data analysis. My lecture notes are self-contained. It’s up to you whether you wish to buy a textbook for supplementary reading, for example, the one offered for this course at the NYU Book Store. The material you are actually responsible for in the exams, however, is the content of the course lectures and discussions, handouts, labs and homework assignments.

Software:
We will use Minitab, Release 21, for data analysis. You can rent Minitab 21 from onthehub.com. Minitab 21 will also be available free of charge online from apps@stern, on the web at http://apps.stern.nyu.edu, but input-output management for the online version is somewhat tricky and the online option may be less convenient than running a personal version on your own computer. For help with connection difficulties in trying to access apps@stern, you can contact Stern IT. For some basic information on using Minitab (including input/output issues on apps@stern) see “A Quicker Introduction to Minitab” on the course website, in the Minitab section.

In addition to Minitab, in class I will present R demos of certain key course concepts. I will make these demos available to you and will be happy to answer questions about them. R is an extremely widely-used tool for data science. Please
note, however, that R will not be covered in homeworks or exams. I will not be asking you to write or interpret any R code. Minitab is much more convenient for learning statistics, and that is why it will be the software for homeworks and exams.

**Grading Policy**

We will have weekly homeworks, one midterm, a final exam, and one or more labs. Your grade will be based on these, as well as class participation and attendance. The details follow.

**HOMEWORK:**
The homeworks count for 15% of the grade. They should be submitted on Brightspace. For due dates, see the homework section of the course website. You can work together in groups of up to six. The group should submit just one paper, with all group members’ names on the front page. Everyone in the group should understand what was done for every problem. (Understanding the homework problems should help you to do better on the exams.) 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 TA to comment on, please indicate this clearly at the top of your paper. I will post homework solutions at the appropriate time. I’ll be happy to discuss all current and old homework problems in office hours. Due to time constraints and the lateness policy above, it usually won’t be possible for us to discuss homework problems in class.

**EXAMS:**
The exams count for 75% of the grade. I will grade them myself. Makeup exams will not be offered. There will be one midterm and one final exam. Exams are open-notes. You can bring any materials posted on the course website or Brightspace. (If you click on Exams on the course website you will find a sample midterm and final exam. Additionally, the TA will hold separate review sessions for the exams using alternative sample exams.) You can bring one textbook. You can bring any written notes. You should also bring a calculator that is not part of a communication device. 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% (Midterm).

Examples: Midterm = 75, Final Exam = 85, Exam Grade = 85.
Midterm = 0, Final Exam = 95, Exam Grade = 95.
Midterm = 95, Final Exam = 85, Exam Grade = 90.
Note that because of (1), even if your performance on the midterm is not good, you still can get an A by doing well on the final exam. The final exam will be exclusively a written exam, with no multiple choice questions. We will review for the exams during the class before the exam.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:**
(4% of the grade). To keep you engaged in the learning process, I will call on students at random, although this aspect of participation does not affect your grade. In addition, I would like you to voluntarily ask questions and make comments. Credit for voluntary participation is based solely on the quantity of participation; any question/comment is welcome, so please feel free to speak up without worrying about how “good” the question is. Here are some rough guidelines that are obviously subjective. For extremely consistent, voluntary participation (at least once per lecture, and sometimes more than once), you will get the full 4 points. For a consistent one question/comment per lecture, you get 3 points. For at least one question/comment in most lectures, 2 points. For occasional participation (say, 10 times during the semester), 1 point. Please feel free to get in touch with me and we can discuss what we feel your participation grade is thus far.

**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 1% of the grade. They need to be handed in on time (so that we can tabulate the results), and will not be accepted late.

**ATTENDANCE:**
Mandatory. Attendance counts for 5% of the grade. 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.