

COURSE: STA 2122 Introduction to Statistics I

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. McGuckian [Pronounced (Mick-Guck-in)]

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OFFICE HOURS: Mon, Wed, & Fri 11:00 - 11:50 and 3:00 – 3:50 in DM 406B or by appointment.

SUPPLEMENT: The Stats I course at my video instruction site which includes sample exams with video solutions: [www.STATSprofessor.com](http://www.STATSprofessor.com) (recommended-not required).

**OPTIONAL TEXT:** *Statistics, FIU Custom Ed.* Authors: J. T. McClave and Terry Sincich (**not recommended**-not required).

OBJECTIVE: This course is designed to provide undergraduate students with an introduction to some of the methods of statistical estimation and inference.

Statistics is widely used in business, government, and academia to make decisions based on quantitative reasoning. It gives the practitioner quantitative methods to estimate the value of, and to make inference about, important attributes of the population being considered. This course will lay the foundation for more in-depth study of statistical methods, or simply provide the student with a basic understanding of how statistics is used to aid the decision making process. Prerequisite: MAC 2147 or MGF 1106

CONTENT: The content for this course may be found in the course syllabus, which can be downloaded at: <http://www.fiu.edu/~statdept>.

EXAMS: There will be three exams and a cumulative final exam (all equally weighted at 100 points). A missed exam will result in a zero for that exam. There are **NO** makeup exams, and everyone must take the final. If your final exam grade is higher than the lowest of your first three exam grades, I will double your final exam grade to replace the lowest test grade. If you have missed one exam the final will be doubled to replace that missing grade. Therefore, if you have more than one emergency during the term that causes you to miss more than one exam you are encouraged to drop the course.

GRADING: The point total of your four exams will make up your overall grade. The scale will be based on the following totals: A = 400 - 358, A- = 357 - 346, B+ = 345 - 334, B = 333 - 318, B- = 317 - 306, C+ = 305 - 294, C = 293 - 278, C- = 277 - 266, D+ = 265 - 254, D = 253 - 238, D- = 237 - 226, F = 225 - 0. **Please note that I do not issue grades of incomplete, and I do not withdraw students.** It is your responsibility to withdraw yourself if you are not doing well in the course or you must stay in the class and take whatever grade you earn.

CALCULATORS: Students may only use standard/basic or scientific calculators (no cell phones).

**I would like to apologize in advance for the sections that follow. Ninety percent of college students do not need to be told the information contained below, but for the handful that are under the delusion that they deserve special treatment, I must include it.**

DISHONESTY: Any form of cheating or academic dishonesty is strictly forbidden in this class. If I find out that an exam turned into me is not the work of the sole person that has his/her name at the top of the page, I will issue a zero grade for the course, and the student may be subject to further disciplinary action.

COMMON ISSUES: Statistics can be a challenge which means you will need to work at it. Your grades are based on your exams and labs and nothing else. Everyone should have and will have the same opportunities in the course. This means you cannot ask me for individual extra credit assignments, and I cannot change your grade or give you extra points. Finally, telling me how important it is that you pass this class doesn't change any of the above principles. Everyone who takes this class feels like it is imperative that they pass. Your grade is not based on your individual circumstances, only your performance. If I were to grant you special treatment I would be treating you differently. Of course you don't want me to treat you differently if it goes against you, but if I am helping you out I am not helping someone else. That means they are being treated differently (but for the worse).

LETTERS: If you are thinking of having me write you a letter of recommendation, please understand that I will not write a letter for a student that I do not know. Don't assume that just earning an A in my class means that I am willing to vouch for you in a letter of recommendation. You must stand out in my mind, so participate, visit during my office hours, ... Finally, if you want a letter from me, be proactive, I am not in town during the summers, so ask for the letter during the fall or spring semester—not during the summer.

V. SIGNATURE: By continuing in this course, you are affirming that you will never ask me for special consideration regarding exams, assignments, make-ups or your final grade. That final grade will be based on the scale above (note: a 69.4% is not a 70% which means it is not passing—close doesn't count here). By signing this you are stating that you clearly understand that there are no make-ups unless you have documentation verifying an unforeseen unpreventable emergency on or just before the day of the exam. Finally, you are also stating that you are aware that this syllabus and our accompanying tentative schedule is subject to change as needed to accommodate unforeseen issues that arise during the term. These changes will be announced in class, so it is important that you do not miss class and those announcements.

WEB PAGE: <http://www.fiu.edu/~mcguckd>