

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics - Winter 2021
Econ 221: Statistics for Economists
Online LEC 041

Instructor Information

Instructor: Zara Liaqat

Office Hours: Virtual office hours organized on WEBEX

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Course Communication

Due to COVID-19, this course is conducted entirely online. This means that there is no possibility to meet on-campus, and the course will be administered through LEARN.

Course Description

In this course we ask how we can use a sample of individuals to make well-reasoned claims about an unobserved population. We start by discussing ways of describing a population. We then learn how probability theory can be used to model uncertain events. Next we connect these two discussions and derive probability distributions of estimators of population characteristics. These distributions provide a basis for statistical inference about the population. The course introduces some basic forms of statistical modeling.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Through lectures, reading and practice in solving problems by hand and spreadsheet calculations students will obtain:

- a basic literacy with regard to statistical techniques and data analysis;
- familiarity with the use of probability theory in modeling random events.

Required Text

Introductory Business Statistics from OpenStax:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-business-statistics>

Print ISBN 1-947172-46-8

Digital ISBN 1-947172-47-6

Your textbook for this class is available for free online, in web view or PDF format! If you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost via the campus bookstore or from OpenStax on Amazon.com. You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device. If you buy on Amazon, make sure you use the link on your book page on openstax.org so you get the official OpenStax print version. (Simple printouts sold by third parties on Amazon are not verifiable and not as high-quality.)

Other Resources:

Paul Newbold, William L. Carlson, and Betty M. Thorne, Statistics for Business and Economics 8th edition, (Toronto: Pearson Education Inc., 2013)

Course Webpage

This course outline is available at two locations for the duration of the term:

- (a) Department of Economics website <http://economics.uwaterloo.ca/courses>
- (b) LEARN website <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/> (use WatIAM/Quest username and password)

Lectures & Readings Available on LEARN

- Lecture slides, recorded videos, and additional course material will be posted on LEARN <http://learn.uwaterloo.ca> on a weekly basis.
- The LEARN site is down occasionally. Save the course materials to your computer as soon as they are posted. Always be prepared!
- Students writing test and exams are responsible to save course materials on LEARN before the access to their courses is shut off (normally on the first day of classes of the next term).

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Weighting Scheme
Assignments (5 @ 7% each)	35%
Midterm Exam (Feb 25th, 2021)	30%
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	35%
Total	100%

- The date and time for the final exam will be set by the Registrar, and will be announced on LEARN.
- The exams will be completed online through LEARN. There will be a 24-hour window during which each of the exams will be available for completion.
- Examinations in this course are based on the material contained in the textbook, the content presented in the PowerPoint slides, and the pre-recorded videos.
- Read the textbook and other assigned readings and go through your lecture notes. Some of the materials covered in lectures may not be available in the textbook.
- Work out all optional assignments and practice questions in the textbook and on the textbook's website. These are meant for helping you prepare for the exams.
- Though you may work at your own pace during the week, you will need to complete the assignments as scheduled.
- The assignments will be posted and submitted on LEARN. Due dates will be announced during the first week of classes. Without a prior arrangement with the instructor, *no late assignments will be accepted.*

Examination Policy

- Failure to write an exam results in a grade of zero. Exceptions will only be made under the most extreme circumstances, with a written note, and according to the policies of the department of economics and faculty of Arts.
- Students must report to me the reasons for not writing an exam prior to the exam date or immediately after the exam for my approval.
- Please note that students who decide to take an exam cannot be given accommodation after the fact due to illness or personal complicating factors that may have affected their performance. If you are not well on the day of an exam it is advisable that you not take the exam and obtain valid documentation of the circumstances of this decision.

Submission of Exam Papers

Late submission of exam papers is not accepted and missed submissions will receive a zero mark for whatever reason. Exam papers must be submitted in whole and on time. Exam papers: (a) not submitted on time, (b) submitted with missing pages, or (c) not received at all, will receive a grade of zero for whatever reason. It is the responsibility of students to ensure that they write exams on the date and time assigned to their sections.

Missing the Midterm Exam

- Missing the midterm will automatically result in a grade of zero. If the illness can be documented with a UW Verification of Illness Form (the only acceptable document), with approval you may be allowed to write a makeup midterm exam. This remedy is a privilege and not a right.
- Students are advised to notify the instructor about the missed exam in person or via email notification as soon as possible, and within 24 hours of the missed exam.

Missing the Final Exam

- Missing the final exam is a very serious matter which automatically results in a grade of zero for the final exam and possibly a failing grade for the course. Please carefully read the Economics Department policy on deferred final exams for instructions.
- No deferred final exam will be provided for students who missed all the exams (including the final exam) in this course.

Course Schedule

This class schedule is tentative. Any necessary modifications to the course content will be communicated to you via email or LEARN Announcements.

Week	Topic	Readings Due
1	Course Introduction & Sampling and Data	Chapter 1
2	Descriptive Statistics	Chapter 2
3	Probability Topics	Chapter 3
4	Discrete Random Variables	Chapter 4
5	Continuous Random Variables	Chapter 5
6	Reading Week [Feb 13 – Feb 21]	
7	The Normal Distribution	Chapter 6
8	The Central Limit Theorem	Chapter 7
9	Confidence Intervals	Chapter 8
10	Introduction to Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 9
11	Hypothesis Testing with One Sample	Chapter 9
12	Linear Regression and Correlation	Chapter 13
13	Linear Regression and Correlation & Review	Chapter 13

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Deferred Final Exam Policy is detailed on the department website in the 'Resources and Policies' section of the Undergraduate program page. The web address is:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/undergraduate/resources-and-policies/deferred-final-exam-policy>

Cross-listed course

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances](#), Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213
- Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe app](#) to your phone to quickly access mental health support information .