

STAT 134: Statistical Literacy Generic Syllabus

Title	STAT 134 Statistical Literacy (3 credits)			
Description	Participants will study the social statistics encountered by consumers. Investigate the story behind the story. Study the influences on social statistics. Study the techniques used to control these influences. Strong focus on confounding.			
Goals	To help students think critically about statistics as evidence in arguments: to see the story behind the story. To help students see value in becoming statistically literate.			
Objectives (Student Learning Outcomes)	Can use ordinary English to distinguish association from causation and to form arithmetic associations of numbers and ratios. Can identify and evaluate influences (confounding, assembly, randomness and error/bias) on a statistic. Can identify, evaluate and use various techniques to take control of – or control for – these influences. Can use ordinary English to describe and compare statistics as presented in statements, tables and graphs. Can evaluate the strength of evidence provided by statistics in the everyday media, press releases and journal articles.			
Required	Text: <i>Statistical Literacy</i> by Schield Registration in the online forum.			
Grading Scale	[98≤A+≤100], [93≤A<98], [90≤A-<93], [87≤B+<90], [83≤B<87], [80≤B-<83], [75≤C+<80], [70≤C<75], [50≤D<70], [F<50], and F if you do not show up to take the final exam.			
Grading Components Requirements	Chapter Exercises (7@3%)	21%	Exams (two)	18%
	Forum writing (10-16 cases)	20%	Final Exam	30%
	Project and Attendance	9%	Course Evaluations	2%
Online Components	Course instruction is web-enhanced: This course has two online sources. Chapter exercises and quizzes are in the UNM course management system. Writing is done in an online forum.			

Schedule of Activities

Subject to change: Minor changes announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

Week of	Material Covered	Notes / UNM Deadlines
Aug 17	Introduction, Forum/Discussion Board Ch 1 Statistics in Arguments. Take CARE	Aug 17 – Instruction Begins
Aug 24	Ch 2 Forming comparisons. Devices for controlling influences.	Aug 28: Last day to add courses or change sections or grade mode
Aug 31	Evaluate statistics as evidence in media. Review homework	Sep 3 – Labor Day Holiday Sep 7 – Last day to drop without a grade
Sep 7	Ch 3: Understanding Measurements. Confounder influence on averages.	
Sep 14	Ch 4A: Percent/percentage grammar	
Sep 21	Ch 4B: Half tables; rate/chance grammar	
Sep 28	Study statistics in media. Review homework	
Oct 5	Review Ch 1-4A. Exam 1: Ch. 1-4A	
Oct 12	Ch 5. Compare ratios. Use Likely grammar	Oct 11-12 – Fall Break
Oct 19	Ch 6 Interpreting Ratios. Medical Tests, Simpson's Paradox; Cornfield Conditions	
Oct 26	Review homework, news studies & Exam 1	
Nov 2	Review Ch 4-6. Exam 2: Ch 4-6.	
Nov 9	Ch 7 Samples, significance & confounding	
Nov 16	Assign projects. Review homework/Exam 2. Evaluate statistics as evidence in media.	11/9 – Last day to withdraw without dean's approval
Nov 23	Study statistics in media. Projects/Present	Nov 19-20 – Thanksgiving Break
Nov 30	Project Presentations and Course Review	Dec 4: Last day withdraw w dean approval
Dec 7	Final Exam Ch 1-7	Dec 7 – Final Exam, Time, room TBD

Forum Challenges: One or two challenges per week.

Chapter Exercises (On Line). Class Project: Determined by Instructor

Instructor	Name, E-mail, phone
Office	Location, Hours
Meeting	Semester: Room, Days/Time
Web Site	Click on STAT 134 under Course Materials in the Courses tab at www.math.unm.edu .
Calculator	A scientific calculator may be used on all homework and exams. A calculator with statistical functions (mean, standard deviation, statistical tests, etc.) is recommended but not required. Use of cell phone calculators or calculators on other WIFI-capable devices is not allowed on exams.
Extra Credit	There will be no provision for extra credit. ALL EXAMS – FINAL INCLUDED - MUST BE TAKEN. Exams will not be curved or re-worked for extra points.
Homework	The chapter exercises and the Forum are homework.
Missed Exams	If you know you are going to miss an exam, you must make prior arrangements with your instructor to take a make-up exam. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, to take a make-up exam you must provide documentation of the emergency (doctor's note, police report, etc.), and email instructor notification of the missed exam within 24 hours of the missed exam.
Attendance	Attendance is mandatory. Tardiness or an early departure may be regarded as an absence. To be excused, the instructor must be notified of an absence before the class starts. If a student has more than six hours of unexcused absences the instructor may drop the student unless it is after the last day to withdraw without dean approval. It is the student's responsibility to drop the course if he/she chooses not to complete the course.
Student Behavior	Per the Code of Conduct as stated in the Policies and Regulations for UNM, student activities that interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education or to conduct their University duties and responsibilities will lead to disciplinary action. This includes any activities that are disruptive to the class and any acts of academic dishonesty. You are expected to behave in a courteous and respectful manner toward the instructor and your fellow students. You may be dropped for inappropriate behavior. The use of cell phones, headphones, smart watches, etc. is not permitted during class or exams.
Title IX	Our university should always be spaces of mutual respect, kindness, and support, without fear of discrimination, harassment or violence. Any disclosure of gender discrimination (including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to your instructor must be reported to the university's Title IX coordinator (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the policy regarding sexual misconduct, see policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html .
Cheating	Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Examples are: looking at a neighbor's exam; plagiarizing; modifying an exam after it is graded, etc. The instructor may warn an offending student, the score of the exam may be reduced, the score may be set to zero, the student may get dropped from the class, the student may get a grade of F for the class, and in most cases the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students.
Deadlines	The Department of Mathematics and Statistics will adhere to all of the registration deadlines and final exam schedule published by the Office of the Registrar in the schedule of classes. We will not give permission to override any deadline except in documented emergencies; failing a class is not considered an emergency. No early final exams will be permitted except in documented emergencies: <u>flight reservations, weddings, non-NCAA events are not considered emergencies.</u>
Accessibility	The Accessibility Resources Center (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner.
Grade mode and Withdrawals	You must select your grade mode (letter grade, CR/NC, or Audit) by the "Last day to Change Grading Options" indicated on the course schedule; we will not give permission to change the grade mode after this deadline. Students who withdraw after this date but before the "Last day to drop a course without approval of college dean" will receive a grade of W. Otherwise, If you are in the regular grade mode, and you do not withdraw, you will receive the letter grade you earn (not a W). If you are in the CR/NC grade mode and you do not withdraw, you will receive the CR/NC grade you earn (not a W).
Grading	To get full credit on graded writing, students must give answers that include all relevant information. Proper grammar is essential. Notation and legibility will be taken into account when assigning points.