

Introductory Statistics: Math 141
MWF 9:30 – 10:20, Mars Science Center 1141

Bill Goldbloom Bloch

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Virtual Office Hours: T 11:30 – 12:20
 T 1:30 – 2:20
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Prerequisites The ability to think clearly. The willingness to grapple with new ideas. Thirst for knowledge. Fearlessness in asking questions. Zest for life. A good sense of humor. The textbook is *Intro Stats, 4th edition*, by De Veaux, Velleman, and Bock. (Note: Data sets for problems *and* chapters 24 and 25 are on the included disk.)

Course Objectives The main reason for taking this class is to prepare yourself to take the methods course in your major discipline; here, you will learn the tools, how to use them, and most importantly, how to think about them. In your major courses, your professors will help you to put the tools to work in context. The other reason is that thinking about the world statistically is profound and shockingly useful.

Homework There will be 10 homeworks assigned for this course. They will be graded on a scale of 0–10, thus contributing a total of 100 points to your final grade. Note: there is no such thing as ‘late homework.’

Projects There will be a project worth 100 points—one quarter of your grade. GoogleMeet presentations of projects will be made on Friday, December 4th, starting at 9am EDT. More details to follow on days as marked on the syllabus.

Tests There will be two exams given in the course. For both of them, you may use one 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper with anything written on it—both sides!—if you wish. **Make-up exams require documentation of extraordinary circumstances.** The exams will be graded 0–100.

Grading Policy At the end of the term, your total number of points (out of 400) will be added together to give your final grade. All points are the same; ‘exam points’ don’t count differently than ‘homework points.’

It’s important to note that this does not mean that, for example, that 360 points and above guarantees an A. Usually the grades are curved, but that’s no guarantee for this term. Extra points can be earned in the following fashion: Five points for coming to virtual office hours (points given only on first visit). If you wish to argue about points assigned, you must do it within a week of the return of the work in question. Furthermore, I reserve the right to *lower* your points if I think you are merely haggling.

Online sessions As you know, the online component of the class will be recorded. Your participation constitutes implicit acceptance that if your camera or microphone is on, you may be recorded. Also, all that may be done with any of the recordings is passive viewing. Posting, sharing, editing, screenshotting, or similar non-viewing acts will be considered, at the very least, a violation of the Honor Code. Please respect the confidentiality of the class.

Honor Code Violations Over the years, I have caught many violations of the Honor Code. The punishment tends to be much worse than the grade received for handing in a bad assignment or test. There has been a surge of cheating incidents in the past few years, and when we uncover them, we respond mercilessly. Your first assignment is reading the Wheaton Honor Code and related materials, and then sending me a note acknowledging having read them. Finally, as per student initiative, for all course work, students must write and sign the following: “I have abided by the Wheaton College Honor Code in this work.”

Your first homework assignment involves the Honor Code.