

Introductory Statistics: Math 141

TR 11:00 – 12:20, Ye Merrie Olde Science Center 1314

Bill Goldbloom Bloch

Office: Ye Merrie Olde Science Center 1307

Office hours: M 4:30 – 5:20

T 3:00 – 3:50

W 12:00 – 12:50

by appointment: call x3972 or email me (preferred)

email: bbloch@wheatoncollege.edu

website: bbloch.webspace.wheatoncollege.edu/

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, Quizzes, etc. 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. There is no such thing as ‘late homework.’ Also, if people are showing up late enough that it’s a disruption for me and the class, I will institute a policy of quizzes that will be given exactly at the beginning of class. Therefore it behooves you to be on time for class. Also: No phones. Really.

Groups There will be a group project worth 100 points—one quarter of your grade. Part of how points are assigned will be a confidential assessment that each of you will make of your group members’ contributions. Presentations of projects will be made on Tuesday, December 11th, starting at 9 am. **(This is the time when the final is scheduled.)** More details to follow as marked on the syllabus. Note: you must be in class for the presentations, or you will lose a significant portion of your grade.

Tests There will be two exams given in the course. **Make-up exams require documentation of extraordinary circumstances.**

Grading Policy The exams will be graded 0–100. At the end of the term, your total number of points (out of 400) will be added together to give your final grade.

It’s important to note that this does not mean that, for example, 360 points and above guarantees an A. I’ve usually curved the grades, but that’s no guarantee for the future. Extra points can be earned in the following fashion: 3 points for catching me in a mathematical or spelling error while I’m at the blackboard; and, 5 points for coming to office hours (points given only on first visit). Also, attendance and classroom participation will only raise my opinion of you, which can raise your grade, so ask and answer questions. If you wish to argue about points assigned, you must do it within a week of the return of the work in question. However, I reserve the right to *lower* your points if I think you are merely haggling.

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 cheating, we respond mercilessly. Your first assignment is reading the Wheaton Honor Code and related materials, 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.”

As noted above, your first homework assignment involves the Honor Code.