

# Syllabus--Fall 17 Sections AL1, BL1

## Economics 202—Business Statistics

University of Illinois

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### Required Texts:

Schultz, Economics 202 Course Packet, Fall2017 Custom Publishing.

Aplia homework platform containing the e-text Modern Business Statistics with Microsoft Office Excel 4e by Anderson, Sweeney, and Williams. *You must use the Aplia link in the Moodle website to access the course.* This is a custom package with a greatly reduced price for our students. If prompted, choose CENTRAL as your time zone. **When registering, ONLY enter through the link on the Moodle course website.**

We have a dedicated Technical Support site for Aplia with a link on Moodle. You should use this site if you need technical help with Aplia.

### Required Materials:

A simple electronic calculator and a pencil. You should always have your calculator nearby when completing the lessons. The functions needed on your calculator are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and square root. Calculators with statistical or more advanced features will not be permitted in exams. (Functions such as memory, +/- and % are permitted.) You should use a calculator when doing lessons that meets the standards for exams. You may not use a cell phone as a calculator.

### Course Description and Goals:

Statistics is the study of getting information from data. It sounds so simple, yet you will likely spend several semesters in college studying statistics. There is good reason for that--the tools you learn in statistics might just be some of the most useful you learn! The primary objective of this course is to help you understand the fundamental concepts and apply the standard methods of descriptive statistics, probability, and inferential statistics. The course emphasizes problem solving and statistical thinking. By the end of the course you should be proficient with the relevant tools that provide a foundation for future study in more advanced statistics and econometric courses.

In this course, students will learn how to describe and summarize data, solve probability problems, understand discrete, binomial, normal and sampling distributions, estimate regressions and conduct hypothesis tests as well as interpret the results.

## Grades

Activity	Percent
Exam One	15%
Exam Two	15%
Exam Three	15%
Final	25%
Quizzes/Lecture Completion	10%
Homework/Surveys	10%
Project	10%

Letter grades will be assigned only at the end of the semester based on your overall score for the course. After seeing the grade distribution, I may decide to ‘curve’ the class. This decision will be made after the final exam when the entire class average/distribution is known. The curve has the potential to increase your grade from what you have earned or have your grade stay the same as what you have earned, but it will not decrease your earned grade. A +/- scale will be used. The cut-offs for +/- will be established by the instructor at the end of the semester. The pre-potential-curve percentage cutoff for each grade will be as follows:

Grade	Percent
A-, A, A+	90-100%
B-, B, B+	80-89.99%
C-, C, C+	70-79.99%
D-, D, D+	60-69.99%
F	0-59.99%

*If you “need” or “want” a certain grade in the course, you should work hard and study diligently from the beginning of the semester; there will be nothing you can do to raise your grade above what you have earned. Once the scale is assigned by the instructor at the end of the course, no exceptions will be made; we do not round grades up.*

We do not offer honors learning agreements for this course.

## Instructional Activities

### Homework/Surveys

Statistics can only be learned one way—lots of practice. Doing and understanding the homework problems will significantly improve your understanding of the material and your performance on the exams. As a result, homework represents an important part of this course. You will be assigned homework assignments during each module. Most homework is to be turned in electronically using Aplia. (There may be an occasional Moodle Homework.) Homework is due no later than 5AM Central Time on the day it is due. Late homework is not accepted. The Aplia homework assignments have a varied number of individual questions. At the end of the semester, each homework assignment will be weighted equally regardless of the number of questions, with the exception of homework 13 in the last module which will be weighted doubly.

Please do not put off doing the homework until the last day as unforeseen personal circumstances may hinder your timely completion if you put the homework off until the last minute and we will not excuse you from the homework or extend the deadline for such situations. Emergencies, illness and the like do occur for even the best students, so we strongly encourage you to complete your homework well before the deadline.

Aplia will list all the chapters in the e-textbook as assigned readings on the first week of the course. You are NOT required to read all these sections. They are there so that it will be convenient for you to find any chapter during the course of the semester if you need.

Surveys will occasionally be assigned in the course. Points are earned for completion.

## **Quizzes, Lectures and Lecture Questions**

You will be viewing your lectures online and they will be interspersed with lecture questions. These problems will help you to check your understanding of the course material. You will be expected to complete the lectures and lecture questions prior to attending class. In the classroom lecture sessions, we will be highlighting some of the most important topics as well as reviewing and answering questions on the topics that cause difficulty for students. Please do all your work for lecture questions and quizzes using at least 6 decimal places and enter your final answer with at least 4 decimal points (unless the number naturally truncates earlier.)

There will be three quizzes during the semester during the TR lecture classes. These will be announced in advance and will follow the same rules as exams in terms of "closed book", calculators, formula sheets, [tables](#), cheating, etc.

## **Exams**

There will be three exams and a final given during the semester. The exams will be held on Thursdays, 9/21, 10/19, and 11/16.

The three semester exams will be "closed book" and are currently scheduled in Foellinger Auditorium. You will be provided with a [formula sheet](#) and [tables](#) if needed for that exam. For each exam you will need your i-card, a PENCIL and a simple electronic calculator, described above. The exams will be held at 7pm. During an exam, having loose papers or a book on the

floor near your chair will be considered cheating, regardless of whether you look at them during the exam. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in the exam room. If we see your cell phone or other device, you will be considered to be cheating.

Students that have conflicts with any of these exams because of having another exam that evening, having another class that evening, religious holiday conflicts, athletic team conflicts, regularly scheduled employment or other foreseeable valid conflict must fill out the conflict request form (link is on Compass2g) by August 31 (or within 48 hours of registering for a conflict creating course for the first time if initial registration is after August 31) in order to sign up for the conflict exam. *This date is the deadline to request a conflict for all three exams.* A conflict exam will be scheduled for each midterm on the day of the exam there will be no additional make up exams offered after the exam. Any student who presents me (NOT a TA) with a valid, verifiable and timely excuse to miss an exam after the deadline will use their percentage score on the final exam as their percentage score for the missed exam. (Any student requesting by the deadline who has a valid excuse to be unable to attend both the regular exam and the scheduled conflict exam will also have their percentage score on the final exam as their percentage score for the missed exam.) Any student who misses an exam without presenting me with a valid and verifiable excuse may receive a score of zero on that exam. Once a student takes an exam, the exam may not be excused. Students experiencing a sudden illness should see a doctor and should obtain a note from the physician stating that they are too ill to attend the exam and present this to the emergency dean. Students needing to miss an exam for any other last minute reason (family emergency, etc) should contact the emergency dean prior to the exam to obtain a letter substantiating the excuse. In addition to a letter from the emergency dean, students may be required to produce additional evidence of their absence in order for the absence to be considered excused. Truly exceptional situations will be dealt with on an individual basis. Any student registered with DRES that is in need of accommodations should talk to me before or after class and then email me their RFA letter at least two weeks before accommodations are needed (earlier if possible). Students will have class time cancelled because of the evening exams but it will not necessarily be on the day of the exam.

Because scores from scantron forms are uploaded electronically, it is extremely important, if there is a scantron form, that students correctly code their name, and netid, and UIN on the exam in addition to entering the responses to the multiple choice questions. Only answers entered onto the scantron form will be counted. Points will be taken off exams for failure to code in identification data (name, net id, UIN etc). When filling out scantron forms, it's important to completely fill in the circle corresponding with your response, but please do not press so hard when filling out the form that your answers "bleed" onto the other side of the form. This will result in errors on both your questions as well as your identification information.

The cumulative, "closed book" final exam will be held according to the final schedule published by FMS which is currently scheduled on 12/15 at 1:30pm for students registered in the 9:30 section and scheduled on 12/18 at 8am for students registered in the 11am section. Students MUST take the exam for the section in which they are enrolled. *There is no conflict exam for the final in this course.* For students with emergencies during final exams: Undergraduate students must obtain the approval of the dean of their college to defer a final examination. Undergraduate students who must miss a scheduled examination should report this fact to the dean of their

college as soon as possible and before the examination period. For satisfactory reasons, students may be “excused” by the dean of their college and examined later by their instructor. This make-up final exam will not be held during final exam week but rather will be held during the next semester.

## **Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity as given in the [Code on Campus Affairs](#) will be taken extremely seriously. Students found cheating in the course (or helping others to cheat) will be penalized according to the Code's guidelines.

## **Help**

[Office hours](#) will be held to address course related content questions with students being able to get help from more than just their own TA . (If you have a non-content related personal question, you should contact your professor directly.)

[Office Hours](#) will be held in DKH according to the schedule posted in the Course Help Section.

If you find issues with Moodle, look to see if the issue has been posted on the [Course Technical Issues Forum](#). If it has not already been posted, please post the issue there. There is no need to post the same issue multiple times and multiple posts of the same issue will actually slow down the response to technical issues.

If you have individual technical problems (I can't log in, etc), please fill out the Learn@illinois Student Help form.