Course Information

Instructor: Nir Eilam
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Office hours: Wednesday 2-4 and by appointment
Office hours location: In-office (Bryan 465 / 447) or through Zoom (see below)

Course Description

This is an introductory statistics course which starts by presenting a range of numerical and graphical tools to describe and summarize data. These tools, together with the concepts of randomness, probability and sampling, are then used to conduct statistical inference: the process of learning about a larger set of data (the “population”) using only a limited number of observations.

While no prior knowledge of statistics is required, you are expected to be familiar with basic algebra, equations, inequalities, linear functions, and graphs.

Learning Objectives

- Interpret and calculate commonly used descriptive statistics, including measures of central tendency and dispersion.
- Use probabilities and probability distributions to calculate the likelihood of uncertain events.
- Understand the notions of sampling, sampling distributions, and the central limit theorem.
- Calculate and interpret confidence intervals.
- Understand and conduct hypothesis tests and understand the various types of errors that can occur.
- Understand correlation and regression analysis to quantify the relation between two variables.

Course Materials

All students are required to purchase access to MindTap, Cengage’s online learning platform that will be used for homework assignments. You should choose only one of the following options:

1. Digital-only option: MindTap Business Statistics, one-term printed access card for Essentials of Modern Business Statistics with Microsoft Excel (8th ed.) by Anderson et al. This includes access to an online-only digital copy of the textbook.
2. **Bundle option**: MindTap printed access card + loose-leaf textbook version of *Essentials of Modern Business Statistics with Microsoft Excel* (8th ed.).

3. **Cengage Unlimited subscription**: this gives you unlimited access to multiple MindTap courses for a period of 4 months, 1 year or 2 years.

The UNCG Bookstore has a limited selection: it offers the bundle (#2) and the 4-month unlimited subscription (#3). Any of the options listed above can also be purchased from Cengage directly, at a discounted price for UNCG students. To obtain the discount and purchase from Cengage with a credit card, you should use the direct-purchase link provided in Canvas. If you are (or will be) taking multiple courses that use Cengage products, option #3 is the most cost-effective option. When opting for an unlimited subscription, please pay close attention to the term of the subscription.

The first time you try to access a MindTap homework assignment through Canvas, you will be prompted to enter your access card number. Please note that you should use the access code by navigating through Canvas, instead of using it on the Cengage website. This will ensure that the MindTap materials will be properly linked to Canvas.

You are welcome to purchase a hard copy of the textbook from a different retailer, such as Amazon. However, please make sure you buy the MindTap access code either from the UNCG bookstore or via the direct-purchase link on Canvas. This will ensure that your access to MindTap is compatible with Canvas.

**Course structure**

ECO250 is a guided, self-study course, with a clear, week-by-week schedule and deadlines. Each week (which usually corresponds to a “unit” in the material), you will have a set of tasks to complete. First, you will go over the unit’s material in the Learning area. It is recommended that you read the relevant chapter in the textbook as well. After going over the material, you will need to complete a series of assignments – homework assignments, quizzes, and class exercises. Each is explained below.

The complete outline of the course, detailing each week’s tasks and relevant deadlines appears on Canvas.

**Grading**

Your overall course grade is based on the following components and weights.

- Homework assignments: 15%
- Unit check-in quizzes: 10%
- Class exercises: 15%
- Midterm exam 1: 17.5%
- Midterm exam 2: 17.5%
- Final exam: 25%

Your final course letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale.
- 93% and above: A
- At least 90% but less than 93%: A-
- At least 87% but less than 90%: B+
- At least 83% but less than 87%: B
- At least 80% but less than 83%: B-
- At least 77% but less than 80%: C+
- At least 73% but less than 77%: C
- At least 70% but less than 73%: C-
- At least 67% but less than 70%: D+
- At least 63% but less than 67%: D
- At least 60% but less than 63%: D-
- Less than 60%: F

Note: Grades are not rounded up. For example, a score of 89.99% is a B+.

Unit Check-In Quizzes

This course consists of 11 Learning Area units, organized by topic. Students are required to go through the online Learning Area at the beginning of each unit. A number of multiple choice “check-in” questions are embedded within each Learning Area unit to ensure that you are reading and understanding the material. The questions are replicated in the same order in Canvas as a unit check-in quiz. Due dates are clearly marked in Canvas. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstance. Unexpected life events, internet outages and problems with your computer are not valid excuses. Make-up opportunities will not be given. When working on the assignments, plan your time accordingly and do not wait until the last moment.

Class Exercises

For each unit, there is an associated exercise to be completed and uploaded in Canvas. Due dates are clearly marked in Canvas. Class exercises will receive no credit if no effort is given; half-credit if the exercise is partially complete but the completed questions are done well or if the exercise is complete but shows poor effort; and full credit if the exercise is complete and shows good effort. Good effort implies a serious attempt at each question and showing your work where applicable. The exercise is graded on completeness and effort, not accuracy. Students should use the posted solutions for studying. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Homework Assignments

Each unit comes with its own homework assignment. You will work on the assignments in MindTap, which can be accessed through Canvas. The due date for each assignment will be clearly marked in Canvas and MindTap. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstance.
Exams
This course has two midterm exams and a cumulative final exam. All exams will be given online in Canvas. The exam windows for the midterm exams will be September 21-22 and October 25-26. The window for the final exam will be December 3-4. The exams will become available at 8am on the first date and are due by 11:59pm on the second date. The exam dates are also listed in Canvas.

Put them in your calendar immediately because there are no make-up exams and very few acceptable excuses for missing one. Acceptable excuses include a documented death in the family, a documented university-sponsored event or excursion, a documented military obligation, or a serious illness documented by a doctor. Acceptable excuses must be approved before the scheduled exam date.

Office hours
The course is fast paced and introduces a large amount of material. Don’t get left behind; if you don’t understand a concept, need help with solving a homework question, don’t understand a solution, or for any other reason, I encourage students to attend office hours. I am here to make sure you do well in this course, use this resource.

If the assigned official office hours don’t work for you, please e-mail me, and we will set an alternative time that does.

Students can attend office hours in-person or through Zoom. Due to the large volume of students in this class, I ask that students make an appointment to attend either option. This can be done on Calendly at:

https://calendly.com/nir_eilam

Choose ECO250 and either “In-person” or “Zoom”. In case Zoom appointment is set, Calendly should automatically produce a zoom link. Each appointment is for a 15-minute slot. You are welcome to secure up to 2 slots if you need, and slots are available. If you think that you require more than 30 minutes, please e-mail me and we can set an alternative time to meet.

Additional Course Policies
- When you begin to feel lost, be proactive! I am more than happy to answer questions over email, or feel free to request a Zoom appointment.
- You are welcome to work together on homework assignments, although all students are responsible for submitting their own answers to each graded assignment in order to receive credit.
- You are expected to spend a minimum of 6 hours each week reading, reviewing, and completing homework assignments and check-in quizzes outside
of class. If this is not feasible for you given your other time commitments, perhaps this is not the class for you.

**Academic Integrity Policy**

Students are expected to know and abide by the Honor Code in all matters pertaining to this course. Violations of this code will be pursued in accordance with the code. UNCG’s academic integrity policy can be accessed at: [https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/](https://osrr.uncg.edu/academic-integrity/)

**Faculty and Student Guidelines**

Please familiarize yourself with the Bryan School’s *Faculty and Student Guidelines*. These guidelines establish principles and expectations for the administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Bryan School of Business and Economics. The link for this document is: [https://bryan.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Faculty-and-Student-Guidelines-2018-2019.pdf](https://bryan.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Faculty-and-Student-Guidelines-2018-2019.pdf)

**Student Resources**

Students are encouraged to seek help from the instructor, should they need it. Using office hours is the primary way to get extra help. You may also find it helpful to set up or participate in peer study groups. In addition, UNCG offers academic support for this class through the Academic Achievement Center (AAC), a subdivision of the Student Success Center (SSC). Services include tutoring, individual academic skills sessions, and workshops on study skills. The AAC main office is Forney 114 and open 8:00 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. You can find more information and request assistance by visiting [studentsuccess.uncg.edu](http://studentsuccess.uncg.edu). All AAC services are free of charge. Tutoring requests are contingent on tutor availability. It is recommended that you submit requests for tutoring as early as possible in the semester.
Academic Accommodations

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. If you feel you will encounter any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS). The OARS staff can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can learn more about OARS by visiting their website at ods.uncg.edu, by calling 336-334-544 or by visiting Suite 215 in the EUC.

Health and Wellness Resources

Health and well-being impact learning and academic success. Throughout your time in the university, you may experience a range of concerns that can cause barriers to your academic success. These might include illnesses, strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol or drug problems, feeling down, or loss of motivation. Student Health Services and The Counseling Center can help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn about the free, confidential mental health services available on campus by calling 336-334-5874, visiting the website at https://shs.uncg.edu/ or visiting the Anna M. Gove Student Health Center at 107 Gray Drive. For undergraduate or graduate students in recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction, The Spartan Recovery Program (SRP) offers recovery support services. You can learn more about recovery and recovery support services by visiting https://shs.uncg.edu/srp or reaching out to recovery@uncg.edu.

The Bryan School of Business and Economics’ Mission Statement

In the Bryan School of Business and Economics, we create and disseminate knowledge about the theory and practice of business. In addition to our courses and research, we accomplish this through hands-on projects, global experiences, and outreach to the community. Our work produces principled leaders and exceptional problem solvers who have a global perspective, an innovative mindset, a broad understanding of sustainability, and a commitment to improve the organizations in which they work and the communities in which they live.

Student Learning Goals: Each program within the Bryan school has separate learning goals as listed with the degree program. The essential components of a professional education in business (excluding the B.S. and B.A. in Economics, the B.S. in Consumer, Apparel, and Retail Studies and the B.A. in Sustainable Tourism and Hospitality) include common courses for breadth and opportunities for advanced work for depth in the various business disciplines. These core business programs share the following common learning goals:
1. Students will implement the various steps of the critical thinking process, supported by the appropriate use of analytical and quantitative techniques, to formulate recommendations for subsequent decision making.

2. Students will apply appropriate ethical standards when making recommendations for business decision making.

3. Students will evaluate business decisions in the context of sustainability goals, balancing environmental, social, and economic needs, conditions, and potential decision impacts.

4. Students will formulate appropriate strategies, in the context of global issues and forces, to improve business performance in the world economy.

5. Students will explain the roles of innovation and innovation management in achieving successful business strategies, decisions, and performance.

6. Students will be able to plan, schedule, contribute to, and lead projects.

Impact of this Course on the Program Student Learning Goals: Upon successful completion of ECO 250, students will have developed competencies toward Learning Goals #1, #2, #4, and #5.