

DSc3100 Syllabus
Business Statistics / Spring '01
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<http://www.gsu.edu/~dscbms/dsc3100/>

The primary objective of this course is to achieve a fundamental understanding of the theory and use of common business statistical methods. The course focuses on data analysis, especially its benefits for decision making.

The prerequisites for this course are CSP 1 and 2.¹ BBA students may not register for this course until Ec2105, Ec2106, and Acc2101 are passed with degree credit.

My goal is to help each of you to better learn, understand, and effectively use basic applied statistical principles and methods in a problem solving environment. This goal is very challenging because of the number of topics we cover and their complexity and interdependency. On the other hand the material in this course is very valuable, sequentially connected, and once topics are learned they continue to be applied later in the course. Early and frequent practice of the material produces a thorough comprehension of the material. But missing steps along the way can be quite devastating. So make every effort to keep up and let me know promptly when you do not understand. Your questions are not considered in your grade; you may communicate freely with me.

Having taught this course for many years I continue to look for ways to enhance the learning environment. Others and I have found that studying in small groups learning actively and cooperatively is extremely effective. I will attempt to help you identify a small group who can study regularly together. You must work steadily and diligently to reap benefits.

The Textbook and the Class

Classroom activities and discussion are considered to be among the most important elements of the course. You are expected to attend all classes and to participate fully.

Textbook: David Moore, **The Basic Practice of Statistics, 2nd Edn** This textbook supplies several key student resources, both free and for additional cost. The most valuable resource for most students is the **Student Study Guide** which is available in the bookstore, but you may have to ask for assistance in finding it. Many of the homework problems assigned in the class are covered completely in the **Student Study Guide** and I highly recommend it.

The course textbook is widely acknowledged as one of the very best. The author is extremely clear and complete and has adopted learning objectives consistent with the American Statistical Association, and more importantly, with the goals of your curriculum.

Calculator: You will need a "two-variable statistics" calculator with functions for correlation and the least-squares regression line as well as for the mean and standard deviation. I have available a **TI 30X IIS** for the overhead projector and can provide live demonstrations in class.

Computer: A computer with a CD-ROM drive will allow you to access extra learning resources which accompany the BPS textbook. Of special value are the Q&A self-quizzes for each textbook chapter.

Some work may be facilitated by using Microsoft Excel, but there is no such requirement. Many of the BPS book's examples and exercises include numerical data which is available on the CD-ROM in Microsoft Excel format, also.

¹GSU's Information Systems and Technology (IST) department has a helpful web page for the CSP requirements. <http://uets.gsu.edu/Training/csp.html>. A more general purpose help system can be found at the followinG address. <http://www.gsu.edu/~wwwwhcs/>

Grading and tests

Your course grade will be based on a weighted average of your work as indicated by the following list. Letter grades are assigned according to traditional “decile” grade ranges (90 to 100 is an A, for example). Your course grade is the average of the three exams.

Exam 1

Exam 2

Final Exam

The final exam is of the multiple choice type and its coverage is comprehensive for the semester. I strongly recommend that you study practice final exam which will be available later in the semester. Any student who scores very well on the final exam relative to his or her average, will be given an option to give an individual oral interview so that the exam score can be given extra weight (up to 50% weight); the oral interview is meant only to validate the exam’s high score.

Departmental policy states that the final exam must be taken by all students in DSc3100. The exam is given at a date and time which is published in the “Schedule of Classes Bulletin,” historically on a Saturday.

For each exam you should bring the center foldout pages from the BPS textbook. In addition, for the first exam you may construct one 3×5” index cards; for the second exam you may construct two 3×5” index cards; and, for the final you may construct three 3×5” index cards. The index card notes must be hand written and can use both sides of the index card. Index cards may contain any information **except worked problems**. For example, formulae, definitions, and personal strategies might be on the card.

You will need your calculator for each exam.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. The instructor must be notified of unavoidable absences.

Make-Up Policy

In the event that a student is unable to attend an exam session, arrangements may be made to take the exam prior to the regularly scheduled time.

Other Matters

Away from the classroom, my preferred communication method is via email (**bschott@gsu.edu**), but I am available during office hours for face to face consultation and am very available at the office via telephone. I also am available at home by phone before 10pm, but only for more urgent situations, please. I want to be available to help you learn; let me know when I can be.

<http://www.gsu.edu/~dscbms/dsc3100/> is the class website. The daily schedule, my office hours and other information can be found there. The website is updated periodically as needed.

If you wish to receive your final grade early, please supply a self-addressed and stamped envelope. The University does not allow professors to post grades. It is not practical to let you call in for your grades, either.

If you have special needs in this class please let me know very early.

Academic misconduct such as cheating and plagiarism will result in a failing course grade. This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.