Casper College Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title: STAT 2050-03, Fundamentals of Statistics

Semester / Year: Fall 2006

Lecture Hours: 5  Lab Hours: 0  Credits: 5

Class Time: 6:00 – 8:50 pm  MW  Room: PS 109

Instructor: Brook Russell

Office: PS 116  Phone: 268-3057  Email: brussell@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: M (11-11:50 and 5-5:50), Tu (11-11:50), W (9-9:50 and 5-5:50), Th (11-11:50), and by appointment.

Course Description: This course provides a basic understanding of the statistics most often employed for data analysis. The focus of the course is on using and interpreting statistics, NOT on the mathematical proofs and theory underlying the statistics we use.

Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in MATH 1000 or MATH 1400, or an ACT score of 23.

General Objectives: A primary goal of this course is to gain a working knowledge of the vocabulary, uses (and misuses!) of basic classical descriptive and inferential statistics.

Specific Objectives: The student should learn to both apply statistical methods and interpret the results. The student will learn the use of a calculator and use standardized tables to perform the numerical calculations required in order to work the problems in the course. The student will be introduced to the rudiments of the statistical computer package SPSS.

Required Materials:
- text: "Elementary Statistics", Triola, 10th Ed.
- graphing calculator: TI-83 or TI-83+ (may be rented from the Math Learning Center.)

Methodology: You are responsible for everything taught in class (whether you are present or not). I recommend that you study with the intent to understand and not to “just get by” on the tests. You will be strongly encouraged to participate in class. When I ask if you have a question about what I just presented, and you do—PLEASE ask right then and there. There will be group activities in class designed to gain needed calculator skills—ALWAYS bring your calculator. Several assignments will require that you employ the statistical computer package SPSS.

AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU NEED HELP—ASK FOR HELP!
IF YOU CANNOT SEE ME---GO TO THE MATH LEARNING CENTER in PS 104.

Assignments: These are problems, from topics recently covered in class, which you will be given as practice problems. I will pass out the answers (fully worked out) a couple of days later. These problems are your best indicator of what exam questions will look like. If you can do these problems, you should be fine on the tests. You may work in groups, or seek assistance from me on these problems, if you need it. [these are not turned in.]

Evaluation Criteria: Your letter grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- Quizzes/In-Class Activities: (25%) This will consist of homework quizzes taken once per week in addition to in-class (assisted by me) problem solving and calculator activities, and two sessions (hopefully) in the SPSS computer lab—this is the laboratory part of the course. In order to receive credit—you must be present.
**Unit Exams:** (60%) There will be four exams to be taken on the days indicated on the attached schedule, unless otherwise announced in class. You are required to take all exams at the scheduled time. *If you miss an exam, contact me immediately!*

**Final Exam:** (15%) A comprehensive final exam will be administered during finals week. The final is required and MUST be taken at the assigned time.

**Attendance/Participation:** I will take attendance every day. You are expected to read the sections in the text before lecture. Class discussion will be encouraged. When I ask if there are questions about a topic just presented—if you have one—PLEASE ASK! ASK about anything that gave you trouble—the first few minutes of each class will be for questions. While you are not required to attend class, you can not (and will not) do well if you are not present. Attendance will be considered in determining borderline grades. Exams and quizzes will be rescheduled only for excused absences (ones with a documented reason, i.e. doctor’s appt., etc.).

**Grading Scale:** I use the traditional grading scale of 90-80-70-60 percent. 
(I reserve the right to lower but never raise the grade cutoffs)

**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade:** Friday, Nov 3, 2005

I will not sign withdrawal forms after this date unless you currently have a passing grade, and I will not allow a switch to Audit status if your attendance has been irregular.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper Student.

- It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodation to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see a Casper College counselor at your earliest convenience.
- If you have any problems with this course, be sure to come to me first. If the problem cannot be resolved between us, then we can take it to the division chair.