COURSE NUMBER & TITLE: STAT 2070-01, Introductory Statistics for Social Science

SEMESTER/YEAR: Fall, 2006

LECTURE HOURS: 5  LABORATORY HOURS: 0  CREDITS: 5

CLASS TIME: 10:00 – 10:50 p.m.  DAYS: MTWTHF  ROOM: BU 216

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Brook Russell  E-MAIL: brussell@caspercollege.edu

INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE: PS 116  PHONE: 268-3057

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.

OTHER HELP: The Math Learning Center, PS 104, has tapes and programmed learning materials covering many topics from algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus. It is open from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. M T W TH and 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. F.

Computers are located in the Math Learning Center and in the computer labs in PS 106, PS 224, PS 325, and PS 327. There are also computer labs in AD 6 and the Casper College Library that have evening and weekend hours.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides a basic understanding of the statistics most commonly used by social scientists. It includes frequency distributions and graphics, central tendency, dispersion, useful probability models, and basic statistical inference. The focus of the course is on using and interpreting statistics, not on the mathematical proofs underlying the statistics we use.

PREREQUISITES: A college level math course. MATH 1400 or higher is preferred, but Math 1000, Problem Solving, will also be accepted. Note: DVST classes do not meet this requirement.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES: A primary goal of this course is to gain a working knowledge of the vocabulary, uses, and misuses of both descriptive and inferential statistics.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: It is hoped that each student will learn to use a calculator and a computer software package to perform the numerical calculations needed in order to work the problems. In addition, the student should be able to understand and apply the principles of both descriptive and inferential statistics.

METHODOLOGY: Each class meeting we will try to cover approximately one or two sections of the text. About once every other week (as part of class time) we will be using one of the computer labs located in this building to learn how to use a statistical software package. Other class periods will be devoted to calculator usage, so bring your calculator to each class. Some group work will be incorporated into the class times, but the majority of the time I will be lecturing or we will be having class discussions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Quizzes/Classwork (25%): This portion will consist of homework quizzes (given at least once per week), in-class labs or computer work, and homework assignments (when given).

Unit Tests (60%): There will be five exams, each worth 100 pts. These will be given on the days indicated on the attached schedule, unless announced otherwise in class. A missed exam may be made up in the Math Learning Center (PS 104) as long as I am notified to make arrangements, and if it is taken before the class meets again.
Final Exam (15%): There will be a final given during final week on the scheduled day. It will be worth 100 points. If you do better on the final than you did on one of the four in-class tests, I will replace that lower test score by the percentage you receive on the final.

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)

REQUIRED TEXTS, READINGS, MATERIALS: Mind on Statistics, Utts & Heckard., Second Edition. In addition, the Math Learning Center has the videotapes for the series Against All Odds and for the Triola textbook, which may be viewed as a supplement to the course. You will be required to bring a statistical calculator (TI 83 or TI 83 +) to class each day. Calculators may be rented from the Math Learning Center, but do so soon as they go quickly! Finally, you will need a computer disk or zip disk for the computer labs.

LAST DATE TO CHANGE TO AUDIT STATUS OR TO WITHDRAW WITH A "W" GRADE: Friday, November 3, 2006 by 5:00 pm. You will not be allowed to change to an "audit" if you have not been attending on a regular basis.

STUDENT RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College student.

It is the policy of Casper College to provide appropriate accommodations to any student with a documented disability. If you have a need for accommodation in this course, please make an appointment to see me at your earliest convenience.

If you have any problems with the course, be sure to come to me first. If the problem can't be resolved between us, then we can take it to the division chair.