

## Spring 2009 Syllabus: Stat 300 – Introduction to Probability and Statistics

**Disclaimer:** All information in this syllabus is subject to change if the instructor finds it necessary. Changes may be announced during class. Bear in mind that it is always the student's responsibility to determine what was missed when absent.

**Course Hours:** **Class # 29774:** TuTh 1:00pm – 3:05pm @ FLC – Room FL2-157  
**Class # 29510:** TuTh 9:00am – 11:05am @ EDC – Room A214

**Prerequisite:** Minimum "C" in Math 120 or placement by FLC/EDC assessment. You must provide me with proof that you have met the prerequisite by **Friday, 1/30**.

**Text:** *Essentials of Statistics*, 3rd Edition, by Mario F. Triola.

**Instructor:** Professor Tim Curran      homepage: <http://wserver.flc.losrios.edu/~currant/>  
email: [currant@flc.losrios.edu](mailto:currant@flc.losrios.edu)      Phone and voice mail: (530) 642-5673

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 9:00pm to 10:00pm in EDC – Room 251  
Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30pm to 9:30pm in FLC – Room FL1-207  
Friday from 8:30am to 9:30am in EDC – Room 251

\*\*\* If I'm not there when you visit during office hours, please leave me a note.

**The Course:** This course is an introduction to probability and statistics. Use of at least a scientific calculator is required. Credit for this course is degree applicable and transferable to CSU and UC. You will be introduced to organizing data, descriptive statistics, and inferential statistics while incorporating problem solving and critical thinking skills to real life situations. Probability will have an influence in virtually all of the material covered. A more specific breakdown of the topics can be found in the FLC Catalog. You should expect to spend a minimum of eight hours per week on this subject outside of class in order to be successful at learning the material.

**Grades:**

A = 1080+ points earned = 90+ %	D = 720 to 839 pts = 60-69.9 %
B = 960 to 1079 points = 80-89.9 %	F = less than 720 pts = 00-59.9%
C = 840 to 959 points = 70-79.9 %	

**The Goals:**

1. To prepare students to successfully continue in mathematics, psychology, sociology, medicine (e.g. nursing), science, business, computers, or other fields and research intensive arenas that involve probability and statistics.
2. To enhance the quantitative literacy of students by developing an understanding of the concepts of probability and statistics so as to gain the confidence to apply this understanding to real world problems.
3. To help students develop a host of "softer" skills, including but not limited to: Self-discipline, perseverance, work ethic, appreciation for precision, analytical reasoning abilities, problem solving strategies, and teamwork techniques through cooperative efforts and group work or group study.

## Assessment

Classwork (CW)	100	Twenty-five sessions at 4 points each.
Homework (HW)	100	Twenty-five assignments at 4 points each.
Course Project	150	Ten page paper at 15 points per page.
Participation	80	Graded on a “curve” at the end of the semester.
Tests	750	Five tests at 150 points each.
Assessing Normality	20	Take-home quiz due at “drop with W deadline.”

## Classwork (CW)

CW is a 4-point assessment that can take on many forms, including but not limited to: Attentively taking notes and participating during the entire session, doing your share of a group assignment, completing a handout that involves review exercises and/or practice for the topic at hand, and on occasion, a timed mini-quiz. You cannot make up CW! However, to compensate, some extra credit for *contact minutes* (punctuality and exits) has been built into the course to account for absences.

## Attendance

You are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until dismissed. Unless special circumstances arise, for which I receive appropriate documentation, you should not be absent from class more than twice. Each absence results in a deduction of 4 points from your grade (via missed classwork). Mental absences, such as doing homework that is due for me or another instructor, or putting your head down during class, can cost you up to 4 points as well. While in attendance, you are expected to behave in a manner consistent with being at an institution of higher learning, adhering at all times to that which is outlined in the section of the FLC Catalog titled “Student Rights and Responsibilities.”

## Homework (HW)

You will automatically receive 4 points for each and every one of the 25 homework assignments.

## Tests

A 150-point test covering lectures and homework will be administered at the end of each unit. You must take each test during the time allotted for that test. However, you have the privilege of making up a missed test *after* the session at which it is administered. The penalty applied to the first make-up test will be 15 points, and then it will increase by 15 points for each make-up test thereafter.

## Course Content - Student Learning Outcomes

An appropriate amount of time will be spent in each of the eleven chapters in the text. *Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:*

- use the concepts of descriptive statistics to display and analyze univariate and bivariate data.
- distinguish between probability models appropriate to different chance events, and calculate probability according to these methods.
- compute probabilities from both discrete and continuous probability distributions.
- apply inferential statistical methods to estimate and compare population parameters, make predictions, and draw conclusions.