

SIBT

SYDNEY INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY
CRICOS Provider Code: 015766

in association with


MACQUARIE
UNIVERSITY ~ SYDNEY
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STAT 170 Introductory Statistics

UNIT OUTLINE

Trimester 1, 2007

About this unit

Stat170 is a three credit point unit offered by the Statistics department in the Division of Economic and Financial Studies at Macquarie University and at the Sydney Institute of Business and Technology. There are no prerequisites or corequisites for this unit.

Stat170 is a prerequisite for all 200 and 300 level statistics units and will be the first statistics unit taken by students intending to major in Statistics. It is also a requirement for many other areas of study and, as such, is a core unit for a number of courses at Macquarie University.

Stat170 provides a broad introduction to statistical practice and data analysis techniques. It aims to equip students with a basic understanding of statistics, such that they are able to employ appropriate methods of analysis in various circumstances. The techniques learnt are widely used in the sciences, social sciences, business and many other fields of study. Topics covered include study design, data manipulation, statistical inference, regression and analysis of categorical data.

Teaching Staff

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Classes

Students should attend the following classes each week:

- ❖ 1 x 3 hour lecture beginning in Week 1
- ❖ 1 x 1 hour tutorial beginning in Week 1
- ❖ 1 x 1 hour practical beginning in Week 2

Text books and other reference material

Students will need to purchase, from the Co-op Bookshop, a copy of:

- Stat170 Introductory Statistics Study Guide (includes a compact disc)
- Modern Statistics: A Graphical Introduction by McNeil et al QA276.M22

A calculator with statistical mode is essential and should be brought to all classes.

Note that the CD Rom has a Learning package which includes lectures, quizzes and examples. The CD Rom lecture material includes different examples to those presented in lectures and thus gives you a further opportunity to work through the material. The quizzes and examples accompanying these help to test and reinforce your knowledge of the material covered.

Suggested additional material:

The following texts are recommended reading:

- 📖 Statistics without Tears by Rowntree (Penguin)
- 📖 The Basic Practice of Statistics by Moore (W.H. Freeman, 2000)
- 📖 Mind on Statistics by Utts & Heckard (Duxbury, 2004)
- 📖 Just the Essentials of Elementary Statistics by Johnson & Kirby (Thomson, 2003)
- 📖 Statistics for the Life Sciences by Samuels & Witmer (Prentice Hall, 2003)
- 📖 Statistics: Informed Decisions Using Data by Sullivan (Prentice Hall, 2004)

Intro Stats by De Veaux, Velleman and Bock (Pearson, 2006) in the unit.

Unit Web pages

Information relating to Stat170 can be found by visiting the Macquarie University Statistics Department web site. The URL for this site is:

<http://www.stat.mq.edu.au/>

Alternatively, the URL to access WebCT directly is:

<http://online.mq.edu.au>

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit students should be able to:

- ★ organise and summarise data graphically and numerically
- ★ analyse data using appropriate techniques
- ★ draw conclusions from the results of data analysis

Generic Skills

In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop students' generic skills in a range of areas. One of the aims of this unit is for students to develop their skills in the following:

- ★ manipulating and analysing data using Excel and the statistical package EcStat
- ★ enhancing their problem solving ability
- ★ improving their written communication skills, particularly report writing skills
- ★ confidence in the use of the Internet for obtaining information and communicating with others in Online Discussions
- ★ improving their ability to work co-operatively as a team member

Teaching Strategy

Lectures

Lectures begin in Week 1. Students should attend ONE 2-hour session per week. The Study Guide package should be brought to lectures each week as it contains copies of the lecture slides.

Tutorials

Tutorials begin in Week 1 and are generally based on work from the previous week's lecture. The aim of tutorials is to practise techniques learnt in lectures. Tutorials are designed for students to work together in groups. The emphasis on group work is to explore ideas, devise and ask questions and plan ways to answer them. We believe that working within a group framework will be beneficial for the educational and personal development of students.

Practicals

Practicals begin in Week 2. Each practical session is based on work from the previous week's lecture. During these sessions you will use the statistical computer package EcStat and the techniques learnt during lectures to help solve statistical problems.

Assessment

COURSEWORK

Assignments	10%
GNATS	10%
WASPS	<u>10%</u>
	30%

EXAMINATIONS

Class Test	10%	(or not counted)
Practical Test	10%	(or not counted)
Final Examination	<u>50%</u>	(or 60% if only one test counted or 70% if neither test counted)

If you gain less than 15 marks in the coursework, the highest grade you can be awarded is a P.
If you gain less than 10 marks in the coursework, the highest grade you can be awarded is a PC.

General Network Assessed Tests (GNATs)

10 marks

Nine General Network Assessed Tests (GNATs) should be completed in your own time on any PC that is connected to the Internet. This material is designed to give you an opportunity to practise the mechanical aspects of statistics. GNAT7 is designed for revision and is worth 2%. All other tests are worth 1%. You are allowed three attempts at each GNAT and the highest mark of the three will be recorded.

Please note that other important information regarding GNATs is outlined in the GNATs document (green) in the Stat170 Study Guide package.

Web Assessment Using a Statistical Package (WASPs)

10 marks

In practical sessions you will use the beige worksheets provided in the Study Guide package. These have spaces to write your answers to the questions and exercises. These answers need to be transferred to WASPs on the Internet and will be assessed there. Each of these tests is worth 1%. Questions should be answered carefully as there is only one attempt allowed at each WASP. Information on how to access WASPs is given in Practical 0.

Assignments

10 marks

There are three assignments worth 3%, 3% and 4% respectively. They should be submitted by the due time and date in the assignment boxes located in ERIC (E4B 106). They give you an opportunity to develop good statistical practice and to reinforce and apply the concepts covered in lectures and the skills learned in practical sessions. Assignments must be submitted as a group, where a group should consist of three students from the same tutorial class. It is important that each member of the group contributes equally to the assignment. More information will be given in tutorial classes. Marks allocated to that assignment will be awarded to each student in the group. Please see the front cover of the assignment for information on penalties.

Class test, practical test and examination

The class test will be held in your tutorial in Week 10. It will cover all material up to and including Lecture 8. The practical test will be held in your practical class in Week 13. It will cover all material in the unit. Note: you must sit these tests during your allocated classes.

A page of formulae and relevant statistical tables will be attached to the class test and the final examination. No extra material will be permitted in the class test. Students will be permitted to take one A4 sheet, handwritten on both sides, into the final examination.

Note that your mark for this section of the unit will be calculated as the better of:

- ◆ the class test (10%) plus the practical test (10%) plus the examination (50%) OR
- ◆ the class test (10%) plus the examination (60%) OR

- ◆ the practical test (10%) plus the examination (60%) OR
- ◆ the examination only (70%).

Students MUST perform satisfactorily in the final examination in order to pass the unit regardless of their performance throughout the semester. Students should note that, if they fail the final examination, their coursework will not count and the SNG allocated will be their final examination mark.

Plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism in its rules: "Plagiarism involves using the work of another person and presenting it as one's own." Plagiarism is a serious breach of the University's rules and carries significant penalties. You must read the University's practices and procedures on plagiarism. These can be found in the *Handbook of Undergraduate Studies* or on the web at:

<http://www.student.mq.edu.au/plagiarism/>

The policies and procedures explain what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, the procedures that will be taken in cases of suspected plagiarism, and the penalties if you are found guilty. Penalties may include a deduction of marks, failure in the unit, and/or referral to the University Discipline Committee.

University Policy on Grading

Academic Senate has a set of guidelines on the distribution of grades across the range from fail to high distinction. Your final result will include one of these grades plus a standardised numerical grade (SNG).

Your raw mark for a unit (ie. the total of your marks for each assessment item, including the final examination) may not be the same as the SNG which you receive. Under the Senate guidelines, results may be scaled to ensure that there is a degree of comparability across the university, so that units with the same past performances of their students should achieve similar results.

It is important that you realise that the policy does not require that a minimum number of students are to be failed in any unit. In fact it does something like the opposite, in requiring examiners to explain their actions if more than 20% of students fail in a unit.

The process of scaling does not change the order of marks among students. A student who receives a higher raw mark than another will also receive a higher final scaled mark.

For an explanation of the policy see:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/rules/Guidelines2003.doc> or

<http://www.mq.edu.au/senate/rules/detailedguidelines.doc>

Your final grade in Stat170 will be based on your work during semester and in the final examination as specified in the Assessment section above. The grades allocated are as set out in the Bachelor Degree Rules 10(2) as follows:

HD	High Distinction	denotes performance which meets all unit objectives in such an exceptional way and with such marked excellence that it deserves the highest level of recognition
D	Distinction	denotes performance which clearly deserves a very high level of recognition as an excellent achievement in the unit
Cr	Credit	denotes performance which is substantially better than would normally be expected of competent students in the unit
P	Pass	denotes performance which satisfies unit objectives
PC	Conceded Pass	denotes performance which meets unit objectives only marginally
F	Fail	denotes performance which does not meet unit objectives

Student Support Services

Numeracy Centre

The Numeracy Centre was set up to help students having difficulties with numeracy based subjects. Any student who lacks the knowledge of mathematics needed for Stat170 is encouraged to seek the help of the Centre. The centre is located in C5A225. The Centre offers a number of services including individual help, supplementary workshops which are run each week and an opportunity to meet with other students to discuss problems.

CDRom

The CDRom has a Learning package which includes lectures, quizzes and examples. The CDRom lecture material includes different examples to those presented in lectures and thus gives you a further opportunity to work through the material. The quizzes and examples accompanying these help to test and reinforce your knowledge of the material covered.

Computing Laboratories

The Excel Add-in, EcStat, which is included on the CDRom and in the computing labs will be used in practical sessions and for assignments. Assignments, GNATs and WASPs can be completed in these rooms. GNATs and WASPs can be completed on any PC that has access to the Internet.

SIBT Attendance Policy

Attendance is a most important element of students' success at SIBT.

Attendance records will be taken at each class. Students are required to attend all lectures, tutorials and practicals at the times shown on their timetables.

A student's attendance will be taken into account when reviewing applications for deferred examinations, special consideration and appeals.

It is SIBT policy that students, whose attendance falls below 80% and whose academic progress is unacceptable, may be prevented from sitting the final examination.

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UNIT SCHEDULE

WEEK	LECTURE TOPIC	TEXT Chapter	Assessment Due (<i>Note that all Gnats and Wasps are due by 10pm</i>)
26 February W1	Introduction Study Design Simple Displays	1, 2	Obtain Study Guides and Text Book from Bookshop.
5 March W2	Graphical Displays of continuous data	2	DEMO GNAT: 5/3 – 8/6 DEMO WASP: 5/3 – 8/6
12 March W3	Numerical Summaries & Distributions	3, 4	GNAT 1: 12/3 – 25/3 WASP 1: 12/3 – 23/3
19 March W4	Normal Distribution	4	GNAT 2: 19/3 – 1/4 WASP 2: 19/3 – 30/3
26 March W5	Sampling	5	GNAT 3: 26/3 – 22/4 WASP 3: 26/3 – 6/4
2 April – 13 April (split wk) W6	Confidence Intervals Public Holiday Friday	6	GNAT 4: 2/4 – 29/4 WASP 4: 2/4 – 27/4 Assignment 1 due
SEMESTER BREAK: 5 April – 10 April <i>Note: classes will be held on 11 April to make up for Anzac Day holiday on 25 April</i>			
16 April W7	Hypothesis Tests	7	GNAT 5: 16/4 – 29/4 WASP 5: 16/4 – 27/4
23 April W8	Comparisons: Two-sample Tests Public Holiday Wednesday	8	GNAT 6: 23/4 – 6/5 GNAT 7: 23/4 – 13/5 WASP 6: 23/4 – 4/5
30 April W9	Examining Relations	9	WASP 7: 30/4 – 13/5 Assignment 2 due
7 May W10	Testing and Assessing Relations	9	GNAT 8: 7/5 – 20/5 WASP 8: 7/5 – 18/5 CLASS TEST
14 May W11	Categorical Data Analysis Hypothesis Tests	10	GNAT 9: 14/5 – 27/5 WASP 9: 14/5 – 25/5
21 May W12	Categorical Data Analysis Odds ratios	10	WASP 10: 21/5 – 1/6 Assignment 3 due
28 May W13	Unit summary		PRACTICAL TEST

After completing a quiz you must View Results in order that your WASP is graded. If any of your WASPs appears as UNGRADED then you should select View Scores for Quizzes from the Wasps page and press Go. Click on the attempt that has not been graded and when you return to Scores your quiz will have been graded.

Due dates for Gnats and Wasps: Note that you have at least 11 days to complete each quiz. You should complete these early, particularly your first attempt at each Gnat. If left until the last day then you may find that you have access problems and will lose the marks for that quiz. You should note that the cut-off dates on WebCT are two days later than the due dates listed above. This is to allow for any problems which may arise with WebCT. However, you should attempt all quizzes before the due dates.