Contact information

James Bernhard • jbernhard@pugetsound.edu • Thompson Hall 390G

See the course website for my office hours. My office phone number is 253.879.3812, but the phone is usually one of the slowest ways to reach me. Email is usually much faster. (All of my email is forwarded to another account, so you may receive email from me at that account as well.) Neither phone nor email will necessarily reach me “after hours” (on nights and weekends), so please take that into account when you contact me via either one.

The course website is the best resource for information about the course. Among other things, it contains a complete calendar for the semester, including all assignments. Also, if you email me a password when I request one, you will be able to access your grade-to-date any time during the semester via the course website.

Learning objectives

The main goal of this course is for you to become an informed consumer of statistics. In order to achieve this goal, you will learn how to conduct and interpret basic types of statistical inference.

Prerequisites

The only prerequisite for this course is three years of high school mathematics. If you have a strong background in mathematics or science, or if you have taken an AP Statistics course, please see me about whether Mathematics 260 might be a more appropriate course for you.

Course materials

The two texts required for this course are Introductory Statistics: A Unified Approach (a draft of a book that I am writing for this course), and Standard Deviations: Flawed Assumptions, Tortured Data, and Other Ways to Lie with Statistics by Gary Smith. Both are available in the campus bookstore.
You won’t need any particular specialized technology for this course. For calculations in labs and projects we will use R Commander and online tools. If you have a computer, you should be able to install R Commander on it for free; if not, R Commander will be available to you on V-Desk and/or through other avenues.

**Coursework**

The coursework consists of:

- Approximately weekly **homework exercises**, which are to help you learn the mechanics of basic statistical procedures.
- **Reading quizzes**, approximately twice a week, which are to ensure that you have read the relevant material for our class discussions.
- Three statistical **projects** throughout the semester, which test both conceptual and computational statistical understanding.
- A take-home **reading test** at the end of the semester, which tests your understanding of how to read and understand real-world statistics.

**Grading**

Your grade will be based on my assessment of your understanding of the material. By default, I will weight the various components of the course as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 3</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading test</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, these weights are subject to change due to individual circumstances, so if you believe the above components do not accurately represent your understanding of the material, please let me know. If the circumstances dictate, I can work with you to find another way to demonstrate your understanding of the material.

**Late work policy**

I will not accept late work without an appropriate reason, which you should explain to me before the work is late if possible. If you are falling behind or need to turn something in late, please see me so that we can discuss it.
**Attendance policy**

I will not be taking attendance in this class. You are responsible for the material that we cover in class whether or not you are in attendance. Since it is extremely difficult to keep up in the course without attending regularly, I expect absences to be rare. I do not ordinarily give make-up tests, so if you must be absent on a test day, please let me know as early as possible so that we can discuss the situation.

**Academic honesty**

You are allowed to work with anyone (including each other, tutors, and me) on the weekly homework exercises in any way that helps you learn the material. You are not allowed to work with anyone on projects, quizzes, or the reading test, and you should not discuss a project, quiz, or test with anyone until the entire class has completed it and turned it in. If you have any questions on any of these, you are allowed to ask me but no one else.

For general information on issues of academic honesty, see the official University of Puget Sound academic honesty policy at:

http://www.pugetsound.edu/student-life/student-resources/student-handbook/academic-handbook/academic-integrity/

**University emergency response procedures**

Please review university emergency preparedness and response procedures posted at www.pugetsound.edu/emergency/. There is a link on the university home page. Familiarize yourself with hall exit doors and the designated gathering area for your class and laboratory buildings.

If building evacuation becomes necessary (e.g. earthquake), meet your instructor at the designated gathering area so she/he can account for your presence. Then wait for further instructions. Do not return to the building or classroom until advised by a university emergency response representative.

If confronted by an act of violence, be prepared to make quick decisions to protect your safety. Flee the area by running away from the source of danger if you can safely do so. If this is not possible, shelter in place by securing classroom or lab doors and windows, closing blinds, and turning off room lights. Lie on the floor out of sight and away from windows and doors. Place cell phones or pagers on vibrate so that you can receive messages quietly. Wait for further instructions.

**Disabilities**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Peggy Perno, Director of the Office of Student
Accessibility and Accommodation, 105 Howarth, 253.879.3395. She will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Other

Feel free to contact me with any questions you have regarding the course. I very much want each and every one of you to succeed in this class.

I look forward to an enjoyable class with you this semester!