

## Quantitative Methods for Business and Economics - BUS 379 A

Commencing on Saturday, September 8, 2007

### *FALL 2007-08 TRIMESTER, AUGSBURG WEEKEND COLLEGE PROGRAM*

When: Saturday, 1:15pm-4:45PM: 9/8 9/22 10/6 10/20 11/3 11/17 12/1 12/8  
Wednesday, 6:00pm-7:30pm: 9/12 9/26 10/10 10/24 11/7 12/5

Where: Augsburg Campus / Saturdays SVERDRUP 201 / Wednesdays SVERDRUP 201 /

Instructor: Ron Jacobson, PhD  
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V-mail: 651-602-1033  
Office hours by arrangement only.

Course description: An introduction to quantitative reasoning to assist students in reading and interpreting data. Topics include descriptive measures, probability, sampling distributions, estimation, and hypothesis testing with emphasis on applied problems in business and economics. The computer program MINITAB will be used on the personal computer to do many of the statistical calculations and graphing of data. Use of Microsoft Excel routines for statistical computations will be limited.

Course goals: To learn introductory statistical methods and basic principles, to develop statistical thinking habits, and to have fun in the process.

Evaluation methods and grading criteria: One exam, three quizzes, assignments and a final exam will determine the final grade. A minimum of 70% is required for a 2.0, and a minimum of 55% is required for a 0.5. The exams consist of a take-home portion and an in class portion. Teamwork is encouraged on the take-home portion as well as on the assignments. Note: See the instructor before switching to P/NP grading.

One booklet is required:

The Memory Jogger by Brassard and Ritter, ISBN 1-879364-03-04

Two textbooks are required:

Statistical Thinking in Business, 2ndEd, by John, Whitaker & Johnson, 2006, ISBN 1584884959

Statistics for the Utterly Confused, 2ndEd, by Jaisingh, 2006, ISBN 0071461930

Software used is MINITAB available in labs at school – also see [www.minitab.com](http://www.minitab.com) for rentals etc.

An optional resource book:

(0534496008 handbook only) 0-534-64377-9 MINITAB Handbook & Student v14 disc by Ryan Joiner Cryer, 2005, (RJC)

An optional resource on the web and possibly some printed copies available:

(ISBN 0-07-251693-3 out-of-print) Pocket Dictionary of Statistics by Sahai and Khurshid (SK)  
<http://www.mhhe.com/business/opsci/bstat/keyterm.mhtml>

Course schedule: A complete schedule of the topics and reading assignments will be provided on the first day of class. Be sure to do the assignment below before the first class.

WEC attendance policy: It is expected that students will attend every class. 100% attendance is required by this instructor to get a passing grade. Classes meet on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Late arrival or early departure from class will be viewed as an absence. Note that a pre-approved absence for a special circumstance is possible but hopefully won't be necessary.

Assignment for first class meeting: Prepare a written report answering the following questions:

1. What do you expect to learn from this class?
  2. What would be two good methods to use in class in order to accomplish your expectations.
  3. How do you use statistics where you are employed or in previous classes?
  4. Why do you think statistics is important in business and economics?
  5. Please list any special topics you would like to see covered.
  6. Please detail how you meet the prerequisites for this course, BUS379.
- Please bring your report to class on Saturday, 9/8, and hand it in then. Thanks.