ECON 261  
Principles of Statistics I  
Fall 2017

Professor: Ian K. McDonough  
Office: BEH 504  
Phone: 702-895-3652  
Email: ian.mcdonough@unlv.edu

Time: TuTh 2:30P- 3:45P  
Room: BEH 123  
Office Hours: TuTh 4:00P-5:00P, and by appointment

Description: This is an introductory course in statistics for economics, business, and hotel majors. The goal of this course is to provide students with the ability to analyze relevant data and apply the results to decision making regarding an underlying question or problem. This course will introduce students to statistical concepts and techniques that are extensively used in public and private-sector decision making, including all areas of business. Understanding and using statistical methods is essential to success in a competitive and uncertain world.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Organize raw data.
2. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of descriptive measures of central tendency and dispersion.
3. Construct confidence intervals to estimate population means and proportions.
4. Conduct hypothesis tests to weigh inferences concerning population means, proportions, and model estimates.
5. Construct and interpret Classical Linear Regression Models and discuss inference based on the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) estimator.

Prerequisite: C or better in MATH 124 (or higher)


Note: This course requires an eBook and an access code for the online homework system Connect Math. You can purchase this at the UNLV Bookstore (ISBN: 9781260041798). The course code for this class is: WNLW4-DATNH. See information at the end of the syllabus for how to register.

Grading: Grades will be based on exams, problem sets, and pop quizzes:

- Pop “attendance” quizzes will count for 5% of the course grade. There will be a total of five (5) quizzes (each 10 minutes) and I will drop your lowest score. There will be no makeup quizzes, so any missed quizzes automatically receive a score of zero. If you show up late to a quiz, then you simply have less time to do it. There will be no time extensions for showing up late. Note, I will award you 33% of the points for simply showing up and signing your name on the quiz. The quizzes serve two roles: 1.) Lets you know what types of problems you can expect to see on the exams, 2.) Allows me to take random attendance to see who is actually showing up for class.

- Problem sets will count for 15% of the course grade and will be assigned regularly throughout the semester. The problem sets must be completed and turned in through Connect Math. If you want to do well in this class, then you MUST do problem sets. No late homework is accepted.

- Exams will individually count for 20% of the course grade. There will be total of four (4) exams with the fourth exam being a comprehensive final. I will NOT drop any of the four exams and NO makeup exams will be given unless a student asks for it in advance and for compelling reasons (i.e., serious illness, personal tragedy, etc.).
With respect to both exams and quizzes, after a quiz or exam you feel that you should get an answer (answers) correct that was (were) marked wrong, then you have ONE week to submit to me IN WRITING a convincing reason why you should get the points. After one week, all scores are final.

**Tentative Exam Schedule (+/- one week)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>(20% of grade)</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>Week of September 26th</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>Week of October 24th</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam III</td>
<td>Week of November 21st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD by UNLV</td>
<td></td>
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In determining final grades, I will use the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>&gt;= 93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&gt;= 90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&gt;= 88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&gt;= 83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&gt;= 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&gt;= 78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>&gt;= 70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>&gt;= 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>&gt;= 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>&gt;= 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 56</td>
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</tbody>
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Lecture notes and other relevant information will be posted on the course webpage via WebCampus. Please check it regularly. Finally, I do NOT allow students to do any additional work for extra credit. All students are advised to consult with me throughout the semester to avoid end of the semester “surprises.”

**Conduct:** All that I ask is that you be respectful of me and your fellow classmates. All cell phones should be put on silent and put away. Basic, non-graphing calculators can be used, if required, during exams. Cell phones are not to be used as calculators. All other electronic devices should also be put away unless they are explicitly being used for class purposes. If you do not want to pay attention in class, then do not come to class.

**Important Dates:** September 4th, Labor Day; October 27th, Nevada Recess Day; November 3rd, Final day to drop classes; November 10th, Veterans Day Recess; November 23rd – 24th, Thanksgiving Recess; December 9th, Last day of instruction.

**Relevant University Policies**

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct) approved December 9, 2005 located at: https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

**Copyright:** The University requires all members of the University Community to be familiar with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: [http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright](http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright).

**Disability Resource Center (DRC):** The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, [http://drc.unlv.edu/](http://drc.unlv.edu/), 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the
instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy:** Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor **within** the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or **within** the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: [http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531](http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531).

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching:** The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

[https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning)
[https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency](https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency)

**Incomplete Grades:** The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the “I” grade.

**Library Resources:** Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is [https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students’ access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at [https://www.library.unlv.edu/](https://www.library.unlv.edu/).

**Tutoring and Coaching:** The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit [http://www.unlv.edu/asc](http://www.unlv.edu/asc) or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center:** One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: [http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/](http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/).

**Rebelmail:** By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students’ Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV’s official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students’ e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

**Final Examinations:** The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: [http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars](http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars).
Topics:

1. **Descriptive Statistics**
   a. Chapter 1
   b. Chapter 2
   c. Chapter 3

2. **Probability and Counting**
   a. Chapter 4

   **Exam I**

3. **Probability Distributions**
   a. Chapter 5
   b. Chapter 6

   **Exam II**

4. Estimation and Confidence Intervals
   a. Chapter 7

5. **Hypothesis Testing**
   a. Chapter 8

   **Exam III**

6. Inference About Means and Proportions with Two Populations
   a. Chapter 9

7. **Correlation and Simple Regression**
   a. Chapter 10

   **Final Exam (Exam IV)**
How to Register for Your   
Connect Math Hosted by ALEKS Class

**Step 1:** Go to [www.connectmath.com](http://www.connectmath.com). Click on **Sign up now!**

![Login Page Screenshot](image)

**Step 2:** Enter your 10-character Course Code that you received from your instructor. Then select **Continue**.

![Registration Form Screenshot](image)
Step 3: Confirm that you are registering for the right course. If the information is incorrect, select **Modify** to put in the correct course code. If everything looks ok, select **Continue**.

Step 4: Enter in your 20-character access code. If you don’t have one yet, select **purchase an access code online**, and follow the steps to purchase a code from the McGraw-Hill online store.
**Step 5:** The last step is to enter your personal information and choose a password in order to create a ConnectMath account. Then, accept the Terms of Service at the bottom of the page.

Be sure to write down your unique login that ConnectMath has assigned to you. A copy of your account information will be sent to the email address you registered with.
Congratulations! You are now a ConnectMath student. Begin by navigating around your account home to get familiar with where things are. **Be sure to check out some helpful tutorial videos to get started**, which are located here: [https://www.connectmath.com/training](https://www.connectmath.com/training)

Want a printed copy of your textbook? No problem!

If your ConnectMath includes an interactive eBook, you can order a loose-leaf copy of your textbook for a significant discount. To do this, navigate to the bottom, right corner of your home page. From there, select **Order Printed Version**, and follow the steps to purchase one from the McGraw-Hill online store.

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Need Help? Contact ConnectMath Customer Support:

**Email:** support.connectmath.com  
**Phone:** (949) 390-2095  
**Hours (EST)**  
Sunday | 4 PM – 1 AM  
Monday – Thursday | 7 AM – 1 AM  
Friday | 7 AM – 9 PM