

**Statistics 440.605
Fall 2010**

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Office hours: By appointment only
Course webpage: http://www.mkecon.com/stats_fall10.htm

I. Course objective:

This course provides a survey of probability and statistical inference and is designed to provide the requisite theoretical and intuitive background for 440.606 Econometrics. This course is taught at a level that assumes comfort with the course content in 440.304 Mathematical Methods for Economists, including differentiation, integration, and optimization.

II. Required readings:

The required text for the course is Anderson, Sweeney, and Williams' Statistics for Business and Economics 10th edition (any edition will probably be fine though). I highly recommend purchasing Ross' A First Course in Probability (seventh edition). There are additional examples and practice problems that can help you prepare for the quizzes and final exam. Also, these texts will serve as a valuable reference source for you in your future economics courses. If you do not wish to purchase either textbook, both are placed on reserve at the library.

Lectures notes and any additional readings will be posted on the course webpage, as will homework and answer keys.

III. Course Requirements

You will be given four one hour quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will be noncumulative. The final exam will be given on the final day of class and will cover the entirety of the course.

Practice problems will be assigned for each unit. While they will not be graded, I strongly recommend that you complete them to help you prepare for the quizzes.

Grades will be determined as follows:

10% Participation
60% Quizzes (four at 15% each)
30% Final exam

IV. Ethics Statement

The strength of Johns Hopkins University depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course, you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition.

Report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of students and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on Academic Ethics for Undergraduates" and the Ethics Board web site for more information.

V. Course policies

No make-up quizzes will be given. The taken exams will just be weighted more. For example, if you miss one quiz, than the other three quizzes will be weighted at 20% each.

Any grading disputes need to be submitted in writing within one week of the exam return date.

If you need to reschedule your final exam, you must do so within the first two weeks of class.