Engineering 5: Statistics.

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Required Text


Lectures

Jack Baskin building, room 152. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5.00pm to 5.50pm.

Sections

Sections are not optional. Attending them is paramount to getting a satisfactory result in this course.

Jack Baskin building, room 152. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6.00pm to 7.00pm.

Office hours

Tentative schedule. Please get in touch with us in case you cannot make any of the times below. Office hours are an important part of the learning process, and we want to make sure that everyone has access to at least two of the office hours sessions per week.

Bruno: Mondays, Thursdays at Jack Baskin building, room 137, or Jack’s Lounge (big area with tables and whiteboards right next door), from 1.00pm to 2.00pm.

Rui Li: Tuesdays and Wednesdays: Jack’s Lounge (big area with tables and whiteboards on the west wing of the first floor of the building), from 4.00pm to 5.00pm.

Homework

Will account for 30% of the final grade. Students will be able to drop the lowest score.
There will be one set of homework problems per week. It will be due always on the following Monday at the end of the lecture.

Solutions will be posted in the glass showcase at Jack’s Lounge immediately after the end of the lecture. Therefore, unfortunately we cannot accept late homework. This is a course that will develop very fast in these 5 weeks and being flexible with deadlines would most certainly create chaos.

Homework should be stapled and conform to a minimum of organization and tidiness. Illegible homework is not the best way to get a good score.

Questions regarding grading and scores are encouraged and always welcomed and they should be addressed to Rui Li.

Quizzes

Will account for 20% of the final grade. Students are allowed to drop the lowest score.

There will be a quiz during every section. Each quiz will cover the material given in the present section. They will be extremely easy and they will serve mostly as a way to maintain attendance and testing you in the most basic concepts.

Unfortunately we cannot allow retakes of quizzes.

Questions regarding grading and scores are again strongly encouraged and welcomed and should be addressed to Rui Li.

Official solutions will be posted at Jack’s lounge at Jack Baskin’s building.

Final exam

It will account for 50% of the final grade. It has not yet been decided whether it is a take home or in-class type of exam.

Any questions about the scores on the final should be addressed to Bruno.

Official solutions will be posted at Jack’s lounge at Jack Baskin’s building.

Course’s web page

Address: http://www.soe.ucsc.edu/classes/engr5/Summer03/

The web page is in the process of being set up, and I expect it to be running by tomorrow before class.

It will contain the list of homework due, score list (updated weekly) and most likely notes from the lectures.

It will also contain any announcements related to the course.

How to improve your chances to get a good result in this course

Take as much advantage as possible of the office hours. They are a wonderful opportunity to get an almost one-to-one tutoring. Both me and Rui Li will be able to pay closer attention to you individually and therefore help you more efficiently.

Please avoid state of minds of the type ”I’m not a math kind of person”. This is a quite defeatist attitude that will not help. Anyone that is a healthy adult can understand and perform quite satisfactory in this course. Having said this, if you cannot help feeling a little
frustrated anytime during this course (something that unfortunately happens in any learning process), feel free to approach me or Rui Li; we are quite sure we will be able to help you.

Unfortunately our system still expects the students to arrive at this school with good strategies for working/studying, and the sad reality is that many times they don’t. Although we are very well aware that each person is an individual and running the serious risk of sounding paternalistic, allow us to give you a few ideas on how to improve your studying of mathematics.

- **Read the book.** Many people give up after a first read of the book, giving in to frustration. Please keep in mind that no one expects you to understand everything on a first read! No one can do that. Most typically a student needs to read the material a good 2 to 4 times until he/she starts feeling comfortable with the new concepts.

- **Study the examples.** These are the "doors" that lead to the solution of most of the exercises. It is almost pointless to tackle homeworks and quizzes if one doesn’t understand the examples. The usual procedure should be to re-read the theory in case you have difficulties with a specific example.

- **Work out the problems given in the book.** Feel free to do as many as you feel like. Start with the easy ones first. If you have problems, go back to the examples, maybe you just skipped something important.

You can and you **should** come to me or Rui Li for help during any of the stages described above, but you’ll be able to take more from our meetings if you have gone through this list at least once.

Me and Rui Li look at this course as a team work, the main goal of all of us is to help you learn statistics and have a good grade.

As one Irish poet once said:”Whenever I found a wall that looked challenging to climb, I would throw my hat over it, and since it was unthinkable to return home without it, I was bound to find a way to climb it”. By enrolling you have basically thrown your hat over the wall, now you just have to climb it!

We welcome you to this course and we hope that by the end of it you feel that you have learned something useful and at the same time had some fun doing it!