ECON 257D2: Honors Statistics

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Lecture: Tu Th 11:35 – 12:55 at LEA 232
Office Hours: Tu Th 4:00 – 5:00 at LEA 532
Teaching Assistant: Chinmay Sharma

Course Objective:

ECON 257 is the first course in Statistics for the Honors students in the economics department. ECON 257D2 is offered in the winter semester and follows ECON 257D1. The objective is to provide the basic theory of probability and statistics necessary as a prerequisite to all other undergraduate Honors courses. Students should also develop skills in reasoning about probabilistic phenomena, and be able to carry out and evaluate statistical studies of a number of standard types.

Textbook:

Statistics for Business and Economics (8th edition) by Paul Newbold, William Carlson and Betty Thorne

Course Outline:

We will begin the semester by doing a quick review of the course content of ECON 257D1. This review will last for two weeks and you should feel free to point out specific materials that needs to be reviewed. After that, we wish to cover the materials from Chapters 10-16 of the textbook. We will follow the organization of the textbook in terms of the topics covered, but will emphasize the topics differently based on my perception of their immediate importance and relevance. In particular, the substantive topics to be covered will include:

- Hypothesis testing
- Regression analysis
- Analysis of categorical variables
- Analysis of variance
- Forecasting
Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the academic year, I would expect each student to be completely comfortable with the materials at the level of our textbook.

Evaluation:

Evaluation will be as follows: Assignments 10%; Optional mid-term exam 20%; Final exam 70%.

The optional mid-term will take place on the last class before the reading week. Should you hand it in, it will count for 20% of your total grade for this term, otherwise the weight is transferred to the final exam. You can choose to write the mid-term exam and not turn it in, with no penalty.

The final grade for the year will be the equally-weighted average of the two grades from term 1 and 2. Note that rounding-off (if any) happens when we formulate final grades at the end of the year only.

Assignment Turn In Policy:

There will be several assignments throughout the term. You will have one week to complete an assignment once it is posted. Should you decide not to hand in your problem set on the specified date for any reason whatsoever, you are allowed to turn it in on the following lecture with no questions asked and at no penalty. Beyond that point, I will accept late assignments under no circumstance; i.e. you are taking the full risk of not being able to attend the next lecture should you not turn in the assignment on time. Electronic copies are not accepted.

Required Official Statement:

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for further information).

Language of Submission:

According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations, at www.mcgill.ca. In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.