Syllabus

Intermediate Applied Statistics (Math 260)
Handout date: Tuesday, September 4
Fall 2007

Professor: James Bernhard
Course website: math.ups.edu/~jbernhard
Office: Thompson Hall 390G
Email address: jbernhard@ups.edu (one of the fastest ways to reach me)
Phone number: 879-3812 (one of the slowest ways to reach me)
Office hours: TBA—check the course website

Note: The course website contains a complete calendar for the semester, as well as all homework assignments. Also, your grade to date (updated approximately weekly) will be available at all times through Blackboard (blackboard.ups.edu). The course name there is Mathematics 260 (Bernhard). Your score there is not an actual percentage, but a version of your overall score rescaled to fit a 90-80-70-60 curve. I will be happy to discuss your grade to date at a more detailed level at any time during the semester as well.

Textbook and course materials:
The required text for this course is Regression Analysis by Example (fourth edition) by Chatterjee and Hadi, and it is available at the campus bookstore. Much of this course will involve using the statistical program R, a freeware implementation of the statistical programming language S. The program R will be available on various university computers, but I would highly recommend downloading and installing it on your own computer (if you have one).

Course content and structure:
We will cover most of material in Chapters 1-8 of the text in this course, as well as selected topics from later chapters. We will also devote a considerable amount of time to becoming familiar with and using R. Course work will consist of:

- Homework assignments approximately twice a week, usually due in class on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Three larger statistical projects over the course of the semester. These will each involve a write-up and an in-class presentation of approximately 10 minutes.
- A large statistical project and presentation in lieu of a final exam. The write-up will be due during our allotted final exam period, and the presentation will take place during that time period as well:

  Friday, December 21 from 8-10am.

This date/time is set by the registrar and cannot be changed under ordinary circumstances. Wanting to leave campus earlier is generally not sufficient grounds for giving the final presentation at a different time. If you foresee a conflict with this date/time, you should notify me as soon as possible to discuss the situation.
Policy on late work:
Late work will not be accepted without an appropriate reason, if possible explained to me before the lateness occurs. If you are falling behind or need to turn something in late though, please see me so that we can discuss it.

Academic honesty:
You are encouraged to work with others (other students, myself, tutors, etc.) on homework assignments in any way that helps you understand the material, but the write-up that you turn in should be your own. The projects and presentations should represent your own work as well. For further information on such issues, please see the official University of Puget Sound policy on academic honesty, which is posted on the web at http://www.ups.edu/x4718.xml.

Office hours:
I will make a deliberate effort to be accessible to you outside of the usual classroom hours, as I find that working with students individually or in small groups helps to improve the quality of instruction that I can offer. I hope that you will utilize my office hours with whatever frequency and in whatever ways that may assist you in learning the course material. If you cannot attend my office hours but have course-related questions that you would like to ask me, please do not hesitate to set up an appointment with me for another time.

Grading:
Your grade will be based on my assessment of your understanding of the material. By default, I will weight the various components of the course as follows:

- Homework assignments: 35%
- During-semester projects (3): 15% each
- Final project: 20%

However, these weights are subject to change due to individual circumstances, and if you feel that any of the above components do not accurately reflect your understanding of the material, you should let me know. If there are particular circumstances involved, it can be helpful if you inform me of that as well. If for some reason the above components do not provide a satisfactory assessment of your understanding, then please see me, and we can work to come up with another way for you to demonstrate your understanding.

Other:
Please feel free to contact me with any other questions you have regarding the course. I look forward to an enjoyable class with you this semester!