Welcome to Statistics 1: Introduction to Statistics!

I am excited to begin this spring semester with all of you. I am a rare person who thinks statistics can be fun and I hope that I can share my enthusiasm with you! In this hybrid course, you will learn about statistics and the scientific method of answering interesting and important questions about the social world around us.

Below you will find essential information you will need prior to logging in online to the Etudes class system.

Stuff You Need to Know

Do we have any class meetings? Yes, this is a hybrid class and will meet both online and in the classroom. In-person meetings will be held every Friday from 10:00-11:50 am in BSC 110. Both aspects of class are essential to your success, so be sure you are able to attend each Friday and can put in the time on-line during the remainder of the week.

Beginning on February 8, your virtual class will be available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and you will meet with me and your fellow students every Friday.

Note: The first Friday of the semester (February 12th) is President’s Day and no class will be held. Our first classroom session will be held on February 19th. There will be assignments and class requirements prior to our first in-class meeting.

Is there a prerequisite for this course? Yes, you must have passed Math 125 with a grade of C or better.


You can check out the website that accompanies the textbook just to get a glance at what’s in store: http://college.cengage.com/psychology/heiman/basic_stats/5e/students
**A new version of the textbook is just coming available. Note that we are using the old
dition. Make sure you get the 5th Edition. The bookstore has limited copies so make sure to
obtain your textbook as soon as possible.

There is a workbook that accompanies the textbook that is not technically required, but I
absolutely recommend you get this as well. It contains practice problems and multiple choice
questions that will certainly aid in your understanding. It is also for sale through the LAVC
bookstore.

This textbook and study guide may be purchased from the LAVC Bookstore in-person or the
LAVC Bookstore online (shipped to your address). The website for the LAVC bookstore
online purchasing is http://www.lavcbookstore.com/; pick the term and click “go”, then select
the department, course number, and your section.

Note about the textbook: The textbook will be used often in this class. Homework problems
will often come from the textbook and is generally necessary for your success.

You will also need a calculator for every class meeting and whenever you are working on-
line. You don’t need a fancy calculator with all the bells and whistles. You need one that has
basic functions such as the square root. Cell phones will not be permitted to be used as
calculators.

***It is your responsibility to purchase your textbook and calculator in time for the start of this
class. Please allow plenty of time for a textbook to arrive when ordering online. PLEASE,
PLEASE, PLEASE get your textbook before class starts! You won’t be sorry.

How do I make sure my computer is ready to start this class? LAVC uses an online
software program called “Etudes”. Even if you have taken an Etudes class before, you will
want to check your settings and make certain you are using only the recommended browsers and
version. Failure to set up your computer properly may result in problems and impede
your success in this class. The Etudes class software currently requires using either Firefox
version 3.5 or Internet Explorer version 8.

Step 1: To learn how to set up your computer browser please visit https://Etudes-
nq.fhda.edu/portal and click on the link for “system requirements” on the left navigation bar.

Step 2: Go the LAVC Virtual Valley website at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/index.htm
1) click on the “technical information” link on the left and scroll down the page to add the plug-
ins according to the instructions. 2) click on the link to take the “online learning success
tutorial”, 3) click on the link and read the FAQ’s, 4) click on the “student resources” link, and
then click on the “are you ready for online learning” link to take the student skills quiz. Surf
around this site to learn more about online learning at LAVC.

What if I have a Mac? You may use your Mac, however, you need to use only the
recommended browsers/versions or you will experience problems. See above.

Do I need an email address? YES! In order to receive important class information,
reminders, and due dates, you need to have your most up-to-date email address listed with
our LAVC Admissions and Records office. To check what email address you have listed on
the system, go to the online student registration system here. If you do not have an email
address you can get one for free from websites such as Yahoo or Google.

Once you login to Etudes you can also change or verify your email address again in the "my
workspace" area.

Where do I login to come to class? The Virtual Valley website has instructions on how
to login to the Etudes class system at: http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/loggingonline.htm

It’s also best to bookmark the Etudes site at http://etudes.org/

Note: Your Etudes login information is different from your LAVC user name and password so
be careful to follow the login instructions carefully on the LAVC Virtual Valley site.

Once you login, you will see a tab for “my workspace” where you can enter or verify your
email address. The Stat 001 class tab will appear approximately one day before the first day
of classes.

What if I cannot login or I have technical issues? Visit the Virtual Valley “Help Desk”
page at http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/helpdesk.htm where you can call, email, or walk in
to get help. If you are unable to login, email me immediately at shirabrill@roadrunner.com

Note: Technical problems will not be accepted as an excuse for missed deadlines or any
other issues. It is always best to have a backup plan (i.e. a computer at a friend/family’s
house, Fedex Office (usually open 24 hours), Internet café, public library, the college, etc.).

What will be required of me in this course? This class includes interactive weekly online
discussions, homework problems, online assignments, in-class quizzes, in-class exercises,
and a final exam. The syllabus will be available once the class site opens.

I look forward to meeting you in the spring!

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