

Introductory Statistics

Math 140, Fall 2009

Professor. Dr. Silvia Fernández

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Office Hours. Monday and Wednesday 4:00-4:50 pm.

Class meeting time & place. Monday and Wednesday 5:00-6:40 pm, CR5122 (CR=Chaparral Hall).

Topics. Introduction to Data Exploration and Inference, Distributions, Measures of Center and Spread, The Normal Distribution, Surveys and Experiments, Randomization, Sampling distributions of Sample Mean and Sample Proportion, Probability, Conditional Probability, Independent Events, Inference for Proportions, Inference for Means, Relationships between two quantitative variables.

Textbook. Statistics in Action (Understanding a World of Data) by Ann E. Watkins, Richard L. Scheaffer, George W. Cobb, 2nd edition, 2008. Key Curriculum Press. ISBN: 978-1-55953-909-8. Topics from chapters 1-5, 7-9 will be covered.

Prerequisite. A passing score on the ELM = Entry Level Mathematics examination, or a waiver. <http://www.csun.edu/testing/placement/elm.htm>.

Assessment. Your grade will be based on attendance, homework, three in-class exams, and an optional (see details below) final exam.

Attendance. Attendance is considered mandatory; attendance means on time attendance. Repeated absences will affect your grade. Please be aware that under the new course-repeating policy your chances of repeating a class are extremely limited.

Homework. Homework will be assigned regularly. You will be required to access *WebWork* to complete most homework assignments. WebWorK is an internet-based homework delivery system. To access WebWork (starting the week of August 31st) go to the following website webwork.csun.edu. After clicking your Professor's name you will be asked to type your username and password. Your **username** is the first part of your CSUN email address (for example if your email address is john.doe.43@csun.edu, then your username is john.doe.43). Your **password** is your student ID number with no starting zeros. Please change your password after logging in for the first time. Refer to the "First Steps for Students" document for instructions on how to use WebWork. It is located in the upper left corner of webwork.csun.edu.

In-class exams. There will be three in-class tests. You will have the entire class period (100 minutes) to work on each test. **Make-up tests** will be given only in case of an emergency. A justification note is necessary. Tentative dates are Monday September 21st, Wednesday October 21st, and Monday November 30th.

Final Exam. This exam is optional (see grading scheme below) and includes all topics covered during the semester. Wednesday December 16th, 5:15-7:15 pm in CR5122.

Grading Scheme. On the last day of classes, Wednesday December 9th, you should let me know whether or not you will take the final exam. Your grade will be calculated as follows:

<u>Students taking the final exam</u>	<u>Students not taking the final exam</u>
3.5% Attendance	5% Attendance
14% Homework	20% Homework
52.5% In-class exams (17.5% each)	75% In-class exams (25% each)
30% Final exam	

The ± will be used when assigning final grades. 90% guarantees an A, 80% a B, 70% a C, and 60% a D.

Calculators. A TI-83 is required. It will be used during regular class meetings and all exams. It will aid the statistic study and understanding of quantitative data.

Important Notice. The last date to drop the class is Friday September 11th.

Furlough Days. For the past 10 years the CSU system has suffered chronic under-funding. This year, because of the state economic crisis, the budget cuts are draconian, \$584 million, the worst ever in decades. The CSU administration is attempting to manage these cuts by dramatically increasing student fees and by furloughing almost all University employees, including faculty, staff, and administrators. A furlough means mandatory un-paid days off for employees; there are 18 of these this year for the faculty, nine per semester.

For students this means that on some days the campus will be closed. The library will have shorter hours and many campus support services will be decreased or eliminated. It will, for example, be more difficult to get signatures to meet deadlines. Additionally, many classes you need have been cut from the class schedule or are full. These cuts have consequences, especially for you.

As a professor, the days when I'm forced to cancel class because of the furloughs are Wednesday September 23rd, Monday October 26th, Wednesday November 25th, and Monday December 7th. In addition, I have five furlough days on Friday: August 28th, September 18th, October 23rd, November 6th, and December 4th. These days off are not holidays; they are a very concrete example of how budget cuts have consequences for education.