

Statistics for Lawyers – Law 7930 § 23
Jon Klick

Class Details
TR: 9:30 – 10:55
Room 241

Office Hours
TR: 1:30-2:30
Room 315 (644-5714)

Objective: This course is an introduction to statistical methods. The goal of statistics is to gain understanding from data. To this end, we will discuss descriptive and inferential statistical methods, as well as issues in probability theory, always with an eye toward legal applications.

Required Text: David Moore and George McCabe, *Introduction to the Practice of Statistics*, 5th edition (New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 2006). ISBN: 0-7167-6400-8.

Attendance Policy: The ABA believes it knows how to allocate your time better than you do, so it mandates an 80 percent minimum attendance policy. Eventually, you will benefit from these kinds of entry restrictions.

Grading: Grades will be based entirely on the final exam, which has been scheduled by the law school for April 25, 2006 from 8:30 – 11:30. Exam grades will be curved to meet law school requirements.

Problem Sets: As with most methodological tools, it is difficult to understand statistics without performing statistical analyses on your own. You will maximize your gain from this course (as well as your course grade) if you work through the exercises presented within the text. I will also distribute (through Blackboard) periodic problem sets of my own for you to work through which will focus on legal applications of what we are learning. While I will not grade these problem sets, they will be your best guide to what the final will look like, so I strongly recommend that you do the problem sets. If you have difficulty performing any exercise, raise the question in class or during office hours.

Software: Many of the applications I distribute will require the use of a spreadsheet program like Microsoft Excel. I will provide instructions regarding how statistical analyses are performed in Excel. The statistical capabilities of Excel are rather limited though, so if you wish to perform more sophisticated analyses, it would be useful for you to learn how to use one of the more powerful statistics-specific programs such as Stata or SAS.

Course Schedule:

January 10: Chapter 1
January 12: Chapter 1
January 17: Chapter 2
January 19: Chapter 2
January 24: Chapter 3
January 26: Chapter 3
January 31: Review of Looking at Data Topics
February 2: No Class (To be made up with end of semester review)
February 7: Chapter 4
February 9: Chapter 4
February 14: Chapter 5
February 16: Chapter 5
February 21: Chapter 6
February 23: Chapter 6
February 28: Chapter 7
March 2: Chapter 7
March 7: No Class (Spring Break)
March 9: No Class (Spring Break)
March 14: Chapter 8

March 16: Chapter 8
March 21: Chapters 9
March 23: Chapter 9
March 28: Chapter 10
March 30: Chapter 10
April 4: Chapter 11
April 6: Chapter 11
April 11: Chapter 12
April 13: Chapter 13
April 18: Chapter 13
April 25: Exam 8:30—11:30