

**Boston University**  
**MA 113**  
**Elementary Statistics**  
**Summer 1, 2012**  
**Hunter Glanz**  
**Syllabus**

**Class Time and Location:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 6:00pm-8:30pm in MCS B23

**Office:** MCS 163

**Email Address:** hglanz@math.bu.edu

**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm; or by appointment

**Text:** *Introductory Applied Biostatistics for Boston University*, by D'Agostino et al.

**Course Description:** Our goal in this course is *statistical literacy*- the ability to think critically about numerical information and to use it to come to useful decisions and conclusions. The heart of statistics is data, that is, information- usually numbers- gathered from some study or experiment. We will focus on two parts of statistics: summarizing data (“descriptive statistics”) and interpreting data (“inference” or “decision theory”). While good algebra skills are helpful, you will find that much of the course relies on developing intuition you already have- our emphasis will be on quantifying, that is, numerically measuring or describing what you see.

**This course will move fast. It is imperative that you keep up with the material.**

You will need a calculator; please bring one to class every day.

Lecture attendance and participation are vital, as is keeping up with the pace of the class. Arriving on time, being prepared for the new material, and leaving only at the end of class, are absolutely necessary to get the most out of this course. Attendance is required and expected at all classes; the instructor is not responsible for student absences nor the consequences of them.

**Exams and Grading:** We have three in-class exams during the semester, at the normal class time. Grades will be determined by applying the following weighting scheme:

Exam 1	33% (June 1st)
Exam 2	33% (June 14th)
Final	33% (June 28th)

**Make-up Exams:** If you miss an exam, then you must provide an acceptable excuse for your absence or you will receive a grade of zero. A valid reason for missing an exam would be something such as serious illness or a family emergency. If possible (particularly if you want to be sure that your excuse is an acceptable one), contact me before missing an exam.

**Homework:** All “homework” problems are optional, but **strongly** suggested in order to solidify understanding and keep up with the material. None of the problems are due at any time, nor will they contribute to your grade in any way.

**Academic Conduct:** Your work and conduct in this course are governed by the CAS Academic Conduct Code.

This code is designed to promote high standards of academic honesty and integrity as well as fairness. A copy of the code is available in CAS Room 105 if you cannot access it on the web, and it is your responsibility to know and follow the provisions of the code. In particular, all work that you submit in this course must be your original work. If you find information online for homework (from wikipedia for example), make sure to cite whatever source you use. Any cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the CAS Student Academic Conduct Committee.

*Certain circumstances may require the revision of the above guidelines; therefore I reserve the right to make changes as needed. This will never be to your detriment.*