

QUEEN MARY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MTH4106

Introduction to Statistics

Course Information

Spring 2012

Lecturer: Professor R. A. Bailey **Room:** 317
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Office Hours: Monday 1130–1300
 Friday 1500–1630

Lectures: Monday 1000–1100 Arts Two Lecture Theatre
 Thursday 1500–1600 Arts Two Lecture Theatre
 Friday 1000–1100 Arts Two Lecture Theatre

Students should attend every lecture.

Practicals: Tuesday 0900–1000 FB 115a Groups 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11
 Tuesday 1000–1100 FB 115a Groups 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
 Tuesday 1100–1200 FB 115a Groups 1, 2, 3, 7, 10, 18, 20

These computer labs start on Tuesday 10 January. You will learn to use the Statistics package Minitab. Some ideas will be introduced here rather than in lectures. Helpers will also be available to answer your questions about material in the lectures and about the coursework. Please attend your allocated session, as there is not enough room for extra people. Please do not use Minitab in college on Tuesdays other than in your allocated session, because this may overload the system.

Course Information: All information is available on the course web page at

<http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/~rab/MTH4106/> .

It is recommended that you bookmark this page and visit it regularly. Some information is also handed out in lectures.

Reading List: You may find it helpful to buy, or have access to, *Probability and Statistics for Engineering and the Sciences* by Jay L. Devore. It is not compulsory to buy the textbook, but if you find that you are struggling with the material in the lectures I would advise you to buy the book and work from it.

Other books which you could use instead are: *Probability and Statistics in Engineering and Management Science* by W. W. Hines and D. C. Montgomery, or

Chance Encounters. A First Course in Data Analysis and Inference by C. J. Wild and G. A. F. Seber, or *Statistics for Business and Economics* by P. Newbold.

You should buy your own copy of the *New Cambridge Statistical Tables* by D. V. Lindley and W. F. Scott, published by Cambridge University Press. You will use this extensively.

Assignment Information: Assignment sheets will be handed out in the Thursday lecture. Each sheet will contain Feedback question(s) and several other Practice questions. Read each question carefully, make sure that you understand it and the words and concepts involved, and answer the question that is actually asked. Think about what you should apply to the question, such as definitions, theorems, examples, techniques, statistical tables, statistical software, and use your lecture notes and Minitab notes to help you understand these things. Combine parts of different sections of the notes if necessary. Check your answer.

Your solution to the Feedback question(s) should either (i) be handed to your tutor when (s)he asks for it during your allocated practical session the following Tuesday or (ii) put into the correct coursework box by the deadline stated on the top of the sheet. Be sure to write your NAME, STUDENT NUMBER and GROUP NUMBER at the top of the solution, and staple all the sheets together.

In the lab sessions there will be lecturers and postgraduates who can answer questions about the material in the lectures and help you with the coursework when you get stuck. They will not simply tell you how to answer the questions. To obtain most value from this, you should spend at least an hour beforehand trying the practice questions on the assignment sheet and looking up any words which you do not understand.

The purpose of the assignments is to help you to learn the material. It is important that you attempt every assignment question, so that you keep up with the work in the lectures. It is also important that you also collect the written feedback on your solution and read it through, so that you can see what you did right and what you did wrong. If there is still something that you do not understand, ask one of the helpers at the lab session, or ask me in one of my Office Hours. Feedback on coursework will be handed back in the following Computer Lab. If you do not collect it then, you should collect it from me in one of my Office Hours.

There will also be two tests, one in the seventh week of the semester and one in the twelfth week.

If you miss attending a lab, or handing in a feedback question, or taking a test, for a good reason, you should fill in an Extenuating Circumstances Claim Form (available from the Web at <http://www.maths.qmul.ac.uk/ug/fg>) and hand it in to the Maths Office.

Assessment First test 10%; Second test 10%; Examination 80%.

R. A. Bailey
6 January 2012