

Faculty Liberal Arts and Professional Studies
Department of Economics

Course AP/ECON 2500 3.0, Sections A - Introductory Statistics for Economists I

Term: Fall 2023

Prerequisite / Co-requisite: NA

Course Instructor

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Lectures:

Monday 8:30am – 10:30am DB 0010

Wednesday 9:30am – 10:30am CLH J

In-Person Office Hours:

Monday 10:30am – 12:00pm Vari Hall 1068

Online Office Hours:

TBA

TA's Office Hours:

TBA

Email Policy: Only administrative questions will be answered by email. If you have course content related questions, please come to my office hours, or ask after class.

Course Announcements: Weekly update will be sent on Thursday. Additional message may be sent out during the week if there is an important course announcement. You are responsible to follow course announcements closely.

Course Description:

Econ 2500 is the first course in statistics. This course is intended to achieve statistical literacy. It will introduce students to the very basic statistical concepts and methods. Most importantly, students will acquire statistical thinking and learn to assess quantitative information and empirical evidence.

Data analysis relying on computer software is an important statistical skill. R (a free download software) is the required statistical software package for this course. R commands with output will be provided by chapter. For the first three chapters, you are only required to understand/interpret R output. For the rest of the chapters, you are required to modify provided commands to solve problems. R will be covered/used routinely in class. Tests and exams will include questions requiring R analysis.

This is an in-person course, and you are required to attend all lectures.

Textbook:

Richard D. De Veaux, Paul F. Velleman, David E. Bock, Augustin M. Vukov, and Augustine Wong, Stats: Data and Models, 4th Canadian Edition, Pearson.

A link to eBook is included in eClass.

Detailed course coverage is posted in eClass in the Course Set up Section.

Practice Problems

For each chapter, in-class examples, included in PowerPoint slides, are the most important problems, and they will be covered as part of course material. Practice problems with solutions will be posted in eClass by chapter. At the end of each chapter, a Q&A session will cover selected practice problems. You should review in-class examples and work on all practice problems to keep up with the course. It is very important for you to solve practice problems before checking the solutions. There are Extra Practice Problems, mostly selected from the textbook, posted in eClass in a separate section. These problems are not required, and they provide you with extra chance of practicing if needed. Extra Practice Problem Solutions are provided at the end of the textbook. I have also provided detailed solutions to some selected problems.

Term Tests:

During the term, there will be three types of tests, in-class quizzes, midterm exam, and final exam. Quizzes provide you with timely feedback of course performance. Quizzes (5 to 6 of them for the whole term) will be focused on recently covered course material. The midterm will cover the first half of the course material. The final will be comprehensive with more emphasis on the second half of the course material.

Quizzes and midterm exam will be held in class. For each exam, you need

1. York ID
2. Laptop Computer (online exams)
3. Pen/Pencil
4. Scientific Calculator (closed book exams)

Each exam may contain online open book section and/or closed book section. Online sections will be held via the Moodle quiz system, and you will handle them using your laptop computer. A phone or tablet will not be sufficient because the online sections may involve the R software. You also need a scientific calculator for the closed book sections. You are required to take each test in-person. If you take an online test outside of the classroom, your grade will be set to zero and the corresponding weight cannot be moved to the final exam.

To protect academic integrity, the following rules will be enforced without exception.

Exam Rules:

1. Independent work is required for all exams. All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.
2. Student participation in a test hampered by individual-based technical issues such as computer malfunction will be treated as a missed test (see the course outline regarding missed quiz and midterm).

3. Online open book sections of tests will be held via the Moodle quiz system. But no discussion is permitted, no matter in-person or online.
4. For a closed book section of tests, paper will be distributed, and handwritten answers will be collected in class. Email submission is not acceptable. Students need a pen/pencil and scientific calculator for a closed book test.

Term Test Re-grade:

You may submit a request to have your term tests re-checked or final exam re-graded. Quiz and midterm re-check requests need to be sent to the instructor or TA within one week of grade release. In your written request, you must identify the questions and the possible errors and/or omissions.

Re-grading of your test will be done in a manner consistent with the rest of the class. A re-check or re-grade may result in a raised mark, lowered mark, or no change. In the process, the instructor has the authority to re-grade other questions on the exam if they find it necessary to do so.

Midterm: October 23 in class

Final: TBA

Grading

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Evaluation Weighting Scheme

In-Class Quizzes	10%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	55%

Missed Tests

If you miss a quiz or the midterm exam, there is NO need to submit a document according to the current university policy. There will be no make-ups for quizzes and midterm exam. The weight of a missed midterm will be shifted to the final exam, and this adjustment will be made automatically without a request. The weight of a missed quiz cannot be shifted to the final exam.

In the case of student participation in a test hampered by individual-based technical issues such as a computer malfunction, the test will be treated as a missed test if reported during the test and the corresponding weight, including quiz weight, will be moved to the final exam.

If you decide to request for a deferred standing for the final exam, you should fill the Mach form to submit an ECON deferred exam request:

<https://www.yorku.ca/laps/econ/undergraduate-programs/academic-resources/departments/policies/deferred-standing/>

Note: Students are not required to submit an Attending Physician Statement or medical document for deferring a final exam impacted by the COVID-19 situation.

Students who may require further extensions or accommodation will have to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Hardware requirements:

You will need a laptop computer and scientific calculator for exam-taking. Phones and tablets WILL NOT be adequate.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Academic honesty and integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's [Academic Integrity module](#) at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, etc.). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

The following declaration is from the Economics Department.

Private Third-Party Tutoring Companies, Academic Honesty and Support Resources

Many private, third-party tutoring companies advertise their services to YorkU students. One way you can help eliminate these advertisements is by changing your eClass profile settings to private (see instructions below). Some of these private companies claim to be affiliated with, or recognized and supported by, York University. Some also claim to help you by providing you with quiz and test answers, suggesting that this practice is safe and permitted by York. These claims are not true. York University has not officially recognized or endorsed any third-party tutoring service. When you are provided with quiz, test and exam answers, you run the risk of violating the [university's academic honesty policy](#). Students have been caught using these services to cheat and gain unfair advantage over honest students. The cheating students and "tutors" have received academic dishonesty punishments ranging from failing courses, to being expelled, to losing their YorkU degrees. Officially supported resources to help students learn course material will be provided by YorkU officials, such as your professors and your department. These services are offered at no cost to you as a student. Your professor will likely provide weekly office help hours to meet with students and if you are a first- or second-year student and would like help with course material, make sure you join one of our weekly [Peer Assisted Study Sessions \(PASS\)](#). If you require help with any of your numeracy-related courses that involve math, statistics or Excel, drop in online to meet with one of our peer tutors at the [Student Numeracy Assistance Centre at Keele \(SNACK\)](#). If you are ever unsure of whether a resource is allowable or endorsed by YorkU, please feel free to email the Department of Economics at lapsecon@yorku.ca and they would be happy let you know.

To hide your email address in eClass: Step1: Click your name on the top-right of the eClass website, then click "Profile" on the drop-down menu; Step 2: Under "User details" click "Edit profile"; Step 3: From the "Email display" drop-down menu choose "Hide my email address from non-privileged users"; Step 4: Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the "Update profile" button.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) - <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Add/Drop Deadlines

	FALL (TERM F)	YEAR (TERM Y)	WINTER (TERM W)
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 20	September 20	January 22
Last date to add a course with permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	September 28	September 28	January 31
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	November 8	February 8	March 11
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	November 9 - December 5	February 9 - April 8	March 12 - April 8