

**Public Affairs 818:
Into to Quantitative Methods for Public Policy Analysis**

Fall 2009

Professor: Geoffrey L. Wallace

Office: 202 La Follette

Email: pa818@thebat.net

Phone: (608) 265-6025 (office), (608) 274-8221 (home), (608) 213-8461 (cell)

Office Hours: TBA

Course Website: http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~gwallace/PA_818/pa_818.htm

Teaching Assistant: Wilson Law

Office: TBA

Email: wilsonwblaw@gmail.com

Phone: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Class Meeting Times:

Lecture 1: TR, 4:00 to 5:15 in 120 Ingram Hall.

Lecture 2: R, 10:00 to 12:30 in 3349 Engineering Hall

Discussion 301: Thursday, 5:00 to 5:55 in 2175 Grainger

Discussion 302: Thursday, 2:00 to 2:55 in 54 Bascom

Discussion 303: Friday, 1:00 to 1:55 in 2185 Grainger

Course Description: This course will cover the basics of probability, statistics, and quantitative methods with an emphasis of conferring an understanding of statistical inference and its applications to policy analysis. Prerequisites: Graduate Standing.

Required Text: Modern Business Statistics with Microsoft Excel, (any edition) by Anderson, Sweeney, and Williams. The 3rd edition of MBS is available for purchase at the UW Bookstore. In PA 818 the textbook is used primarily as a reference; it compliments to what is covered in lecture, but is not a lecture substitute. Some continuing La Follette students may have 1st or 2nd edition books that they are willing to part with at discounted prices. These second edition books are also available cheaply at Amazon.com. First or second edition books are a viable substitute for the 3rd edition.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussions sessions. In addition, students will be responsible for the completion of weekly problem sets. These problem sets will be graded using a check+, check, check- grading scale. Students are encouraged to work in groups on problem sets, but each student must turn their own work. Under no circumstance will late homework be accepted. The problem sets will account for 20 percent of the grade and are intended to provide intensive practice in applying the tools developed in lecture. You should look at homework as an

opportunity to make some mistakes and learn from them. We expect that you will put time and effort into completing assignments, but we do not expect they will be perfect and error free.

Discussion Sections: All students enrolled in this class should be assigned to a discussion section with a Wilson Law. These discussion sections will meet once a week throughout the course of the semester. In discussion sections the problem sets from the previous week will be reviewed, old material may be rehashed, questions will be answered, and, on occasion, new material will be presented. To get the most out of the course attendance and active participation in these discussion sections will be vital.

Exams: There will be two midterm examinations and one final. The midterm examinations are scheduled during regular class hours and will cover material covered over the course of the previous 4 to 6 weeks. The final examination, which will be given at some prior to the last day of class, is cumulative.

Because I am teaching two sections of the same course and it is difficult to write two fair exams, students in both lectures will be asked to take midterm exams at the same time. Both midterm examinations will be taken outside of regular class hours (R 6:00-8:00). Rooms for the midterm exams will be announced at a later date.

Grades: The following weights will be used in computing your final grade

Midterm Exam 1 . . .	20 percent
Midterm Exam 2 . . .	20 percent
Final Exam	30 percent
Weekly Homework .	20 percent
Participation	10 percent

If you have questions about the grading of your examination or homework assignments please contact Wilson. In most instances questions will be answered and mistakes will be corrected as a result of these interactions. If, after meeting with your Wilson to discuss questions about the grading of your examinations, you are still unsatisfied, email me an explanation of the grading dispute and I will intervene.

Tentative Class Schedule (subject to change)

Dates	Topics(s)	Readings
Sept. 3	Syllabus (No discussion sections)	Chapter 4
Sept. 8, 10	Intro to Probability, Probability Distributions	Chapters 4 & 5
Sept. 15, 17	Probability Distributions	Chapter 6
Sept. 22, 24	Data and Statistics	Chapters 1, 2, 3
Sept. 29, Oct. 1	Data and Statistics/ Sampling and Sampling Distributions	Chapters 2, 3, 7
Oct. 6	Interval Estimation	Chapter 7, 8
**MIDTERM #1 – Thursday October 8 – 4:00-6:00 PM – room TBA		
Oct. 13, 15	Interval Estimation / Hypothesis Testing	Chapters 8 & 9
Oct. 20, 22	Hypothesis Testing / Statistical Inference – Two Populations	Chapters 9 & 10
Oct. 27, 29	Statistical Inference – Two Populations	Chapters 10
Nov. 3	Test of Goodness-of-Fit	Chapters 12
**MIDTERM #2 - Thursday November 5 – 4:00-6:00 PM - room TBA		
Nov. 10, 12	Regression Analysis	Chapter 14, 15
Nov. 17, 19	The Empirical Human Capital Model	No readings
Nov. 24, 26	The Empirical Human Capital Model	No readings
Dec. 1, 3	Estimating Returns to Scale	No readings
Dec. 8, 10	Estimating Returns to Scale	No readings
Dec. 15	Estimating Returns to Scale - Review	No readings
**FINAL EXAM – Saturday December 19 – 1:00-4:00 PM – room TBA		