STA 102: Introduction to Biostatistics
Summer Term I
Duke University

Mon.-Fri. 2:00-3:15 PM, 219 Social Sciences
“If you have the courage to begin, you have the courage to succeed.”–David Viscott

May 17, 2001

Instructor: Laura Gunn
Course Website: www.stat.duke.edu/~laura/sta102.html
Email: laura@stat.duke.edu
Office: 212 Old Chemistry
Office Phone: 684-4365
Office Hours: Tue. and Wed. 11:00-noon AND by appointment
Computing Laboratory Section (REQUIRED): W 12:30-1:30, 229 Social Sciences

Grading:
Homework: 10%
Quizzes: 15%
Lab Participation: 5%
Journal: 5%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Project and Presentation: 20%
Final Exam: 15%
Departmental Exam
(1st hour of final exam): 10%

Attendance: Daily attendance is expected! With a full semester course being compressed to five and a half weeks, coverage of course material will be swift.

Homework: Homework assignments will be posted on the website (listed above). Although there will be several problems assigned, there will only be one randomly selected question that will actually be graded for each assignment. You are encouraged to work together in solving problems, however make sure you are comfortable with the material, for you will NOT take quizzes and exams with your peers! Questions on homework will NOT be taken during class time, however please make use of my office hours during which I will cheerfully entertain questions!

“...the question is usually not how well each person works, but how well they work together.”–Vince Lombardi
Quizzes: Several unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the course. This is to keep you on your toes since the summer session progresses quickly!

Lab Participation: An assignment will be given each Wednesday to work on and submit. The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize yourselves with the role of technology, in particular the software package *JMP IN*, in simplifying statistical computations and analyses. You may work together on these assignments. If you do not finish the assignment in the time allotted, you may complete and submit it the *NEXT* day in class.

Exams: The course will consist of two exams: a midterm and final. It is understood that you adhere to the Duke Honor Code (see course website for details) during both exams and all quizzes. The final exam is scheduled for **Thursday, June 28** from *2 to 5 PM*, and it’ll consist of departmental and class-specific sections.

Data Analysis Project and Presentation: The goal of this project is to apply what you learn throughout this course to a dataset of your own choosing (however, it must be approved by me before you begin analyzing the data). You will use *JMP IN* for this project, so your labs each week will provide you with the necessary skills to conduct your analysis. At the end of the semester, you will inform the class of your results through an in-class presentation. Projects may be conducted individually or in pairs. More information on the project and presentation will be given soon!

Journal: Journal entries will consist of a copy of an article (from the newspaper, a magazine, a journal, etc.) along with a written (hand-written or typed) summary of how biostatistics is used in the article to explain real world situations. You should discuss statistical techniques that you’ve learned throughout the course which are also used throughout the article. These entries are due on the following Mondays: **May 28, June 11, and June 25**. These journal entries can be brief—their purpose is to get you connected with and *informed* about biostatistical applications in our society today! This should be a *fun* exercise!

*"The more extensive a man’s knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do."*—Benjamin Disraeli