STA 213: Introduction to Statistical Methods

Fall 2009
TuTh 2:50-4:05 PM Bio Sci 111

Course Information

Instructor: Surya T Tokdar, Assistant Professor, Department of Statistical Science, Old Chem 219A, st118@stat.duke.edu. Office hours: Th 1:00 PM–2:00 PM or by appointment via e-mail.

Web site: http://www.stat.duke.edu/~st118/sta213

TA: Xiaojing Wang, xiaojing.wang@duke.edu. Office hours TBA.

Prerequisites: MATH 103 or equivalent. Talk to me if you are unsure of your calculus background. I will use integrations and differentiations with abundance and would expect you to evaluate most of them without any help from me.

Required Text: Statistical Inference by Casella and Berger (2nd edition). Duxbury Press. We shall cover the first 5 chapters from this book, and also some materials from chapters 6 and 7.

Notes: I will use a mixture of slides and whiteboard writing. You are expected to take notes in class. I will distribute a handout version of the slides. The same will be posted on the course webpage. These handouts will contain some materials and codes that are not covered by the text book.

Software: The R Statistical Package. This is installed on the university computers and is also freely available from http://cran.r-project.org/.

Course Content


Assessments

1. There will be weekly homeworks. Homework assignments will be posted on the web every Thursday and will be due in class the next Thursday. These will collectively contribute 40% of your final grade.

2. A mid-term exam, worth 30% of your final grade will take place in class on October 1st (Thursday before Fall Break).

3. A final exam, worth 30% of your final grade will take place during the final exams week (time and place will be confirmed later).

Homework problems will be assigned from the topics being discussed at the time. The mid-term and the final exam will be comprehensive and will require efficient combination of multiple topics learned until then.