

**AP Statistics
Westbury High School
Course Syllabus
2008-09**

Instructor: Charlie Burrus
Phone: (713) 726-2140, ext. 386

Email: cburrus@houstonisd.org

Class information, including this syllabus, homework assignments, the date of the next test, helpful links, and more, can be found at the class website at <http://www.charlieburrus.com/Westbury/stats/> .

Textbook

We will be using Pearson's *Stats: Modeling the World*, by Bock, Velleman and De Veaux. This textbook is surprisingly easy to read. Students do not need to bring their textbooks to school every day; books will be used primarily for reading assignments and homework assignments.

Topics

We will follow the basic outline of the textbook, which maps very nicely to the official AP Statistics course outline, found at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/statistics/topic.html?stats#data> . Please consult the class calendar on the website for a more detailed outline of the topics studied.

Unit I: Exploring and Understanding Data

Chapters: 1-6 (about 5 weeks)

Unit II: Bivariate Data and Regression

Chapters: 7-10 (about 4 weeks)

Unit III: Collecting Data

Chapters: 11-13 (about 3 weeks)

Unit IV: Randomness and Probability

Chapters: 14-17 (about 8 weeks)

Unit V: Inference for Proportions

Chapters: 18-22 (about 4 weeks)

Unit VI: Inference for Means

Chapters: 23-25 (about 3 weeks)

Unit VII part 1: Inference for Counts and Slope

BVD Chapters: 26-27 (about 2 weeks)

Time Frame: Weeks 10-11

Cumulative Review for AP Exam (about 2 weeks)

Unit VII part 2: Analysis of Variance

BVD Chapters: 28-29 (about 2 weeks)

Course Requirements

- Participation
Students are expected to participate in class activities. This includes coming to class on time and prepared, with a pencil, paper, notebook, and a calculator if you have one (I have TI-84 Plus calculators in class in case you don't have your own—if you do get your own, I recommend that one or the TI-83 Plus rather than the TI-89). Participation also includes taking notes in class and occasionally demonstrating solutions to problems to the rest of the class.
- Communication
Good statisticians need to be effective communicators. Good communication is a major goal of the course. Students are expected to explain problems using proper vocabulary and to express themselves clearly and efficiently. Finding the solution to a problem is not sufficient either in school or in world beyond school; one must be able to explain why the solution is correct, and that the process leading to that solution is logical and well thought out.
- Tests
Tests will be modeled on the AP Exam, and will therefore be part multiple-choice and part free response. There will usually be three tests in a six-weeks grading period. You will be notified well ahead of time when a test is scheduled. You may also check the class calendar on the website to see when the next test is. If you should fail a test, an opportunity to raise that score will be given in the form of a fairly short retest in the afternoon within five days of the time that the test score has been communicated to you. If you pass the retest, your score will rise to a 70; if you fail the retest, your grade will remain unchanged. Since everyone wants a score higher than a 70, it is strongly recommended that you study hard the *first* time around.
- Quizzes may or may not be announced ahead of time, and may happen any time. They will be quite short, taking far less than half the class period. Some quizzes may be open-note, and some will not.
- Homework
Homework assignments are generally due the following class period. Homework is graded on a combination of effort, percent of work completed, and a spot check for correct answers. Not all homework will be graded, but you won't know beforehand whether a particular assignment will be graded or not. Late homework will be accepted (for a reduced grade) until the next test after it is assigned. After the test, the homework for that unit will no longer be accepted.
- The AP Exam
While not a requirement of the course, taking the AP exam on May 5, 2009 is certainly an expectation of the course. Students who participate in the class in the manner described above will be well prepared to take the exam, and will be strongly encouraged to do so. Whether or not a student plans to take the exam, he/she will be required to prepare for it.

Grades

Grades will be calculated by total points. Tests and projects will generally count 100 points, quizzes will generally count 25 or 30 points, and homework will generally count 5 or 10 points. Because this class is designed to prepare you for the AP Exam in May, your grade will be heavily weighted toward success on the tests.

Please keep in mind that your grade in this class is a reflection of the quality of work that you do. Your grade is not a reflection of how smart you are, or how much I like you, or your value as a person. Since our grading periods are six weeks long, you will automatically be informed of your grade every three weeks (for progress reports or report cards). However, I will do my best to keep you informed of your grade before those critical times, so that you can do what is necessary to maintain the grade that you want.

Make Up Work

If you are absent on a test or quiz date, it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up. The make-up test will be at least as difficult as the original one. If you are absent on the day that a homework assignment is due (most days fall under this category), then the assignment is due at the beginning of class on the day you return to class.

Student/Teacher/Parent Communication

If you or your parents would like to communicate with me, and if it is not convenient to do so in class, then I can be reached in a variety of other ways. My email address is cburrus@houstonisd.org, and I read my email at least once a day, usually much more frequently than that. You can call me or leave me a message at 713-726-2140, ext. 386. We can also meet face to face here at the school; please call or email to schedule such a meeting.

Additional Information Sources and Materials

As stated above, the primary textbook is *Stats: Modeling the World*, although several other statistics textbooks will be used as a teaching resource. We will use graphing calculators in class almost every day. As stated above, you may bring your own calculator or use one of mine in class. Unfortunately, mine **cannot leave the classroom under any circumstances**. In addition to the textbook and the calculators, we will also occasionally use the computer, in particular the software programs Fathom and MS Excel. We will also occasionally use the video series *Statistics: Decisions Through Data* and *Meaning From Data: Statistics Made Clear* as supplementary materials.

Let's have a good year!



Students: Detach the portion below and have your parent/guardian sign it. Return it within the first week of class and get 3 bonus points on your first test!

We have read and understand Mr. Burrus's Statistics Course Syllabus for the 2008-'09 year.

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Student email _____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian email _____