

## Agricultural Data Analysis

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Summer 2017

Period 3, Monday, Wednesday & Friday 11:00 am -12:15 pm

Classroom: Monday through Thursday-McCarty B G86 and Friday-McCarty B 3082

### Instructor and Contact Information

Lecturer: Misti Sharp

Office: 1193 McCarty Hall A

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8:30-10:30, and by appointment

Email: [mistisharp@ufl.edu](mailto:mistisharp@ufl.edu) (preferred)

Phone: 352-294-7633

### Communication:

Changes in office hours, meeting locations and the syllabus will be announced on e-learning. Be sure that you receive those notifications in a timely manner (controlled in your e-learning settings). Appointments are not necessary during office hours. Groups of students are welcome.

### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction into analysis of agricultural data and incorporates statistical and agricultural economic theory into the analysis of agricultural problems.

**Expected Student Learning Outcomes:** After the successful completion of AEB 3550, a typical student should be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of descriptive versus inferential statistics;
- Identify different types of data and relevant analysis for decision making;
- Apply statistical techniques to a variety of economic data;
- Analyze a data set using tools provided in excel;
- Interpret statistical output to aid in decision making in the food and resource economics realm;
- Effectively communicate the results of statistical analysis including writing professional reports;
- Succeed in the senior-level coursework in the Food and Resource Economics Curriculum as they will have acquired the necessary statistical background and foundations.

### Prerequisites:

It is the expectation that students have completed introductory Food and Resource Economics coursework including AEB 3103 (Principles of FRE) and AEB 3510 (Quantitative Methods in FRE). It is further expected that students have taken STA 2023 (Introduction to Statistics).

**Required Course Materials:**

- **Text:** *Essentials of Statistics for Business and Economics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition by Anderson, Sweeney, Williams, Camm and Cochran. Cengage Learning, copyright 2010. ISBN: 9781133629658.
- **E-learning:** There is an E-Learning Canvas webpage for this course. E-learning can be accessed via <http://elearning.ufl.edu> using your Gatorlink username and password. If you are having difficulties accessing E-learning, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk by calling (352)-392-HELP or via email [helpdes@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdes@ufl.edu).
- **REEF polling:** You can use i>clickers or REEF polling on your smart phone based on your own preferences and budget constraints. I>clickers cost about ~\$50, REEF is ~\$20 for a 6 month subscription.
- **Other:** This course combines statistical concepts with practical application and as such, students are required to have a basic knowledge of rudimentary applications of both. If you feel like you do not have an adequate background in statistics or the use of excel, please use resources such as Kahn Academy (<https://www.khanacademy.org/math/statistics-probability>) or Lynda.com (available from <http://elearning.ufl.edu>) to supplement the classroom materials.

**Resources for disabled students:**

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the dean of students as soon as possible to set up the appropriate arrangements. A minimum of 5 business days are required to request an exam. Further information can be found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>.

**Student counseling and support:**

Several resources are available on campus for students (<http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>)

Service	Location	Phone
Dean of students ( <a href="http://www.dso.ufl.edu">http://www.dso.ufl.edu</a> )	P202 Peabody Hall	392-1261
Counseling and wellness center ( <a href="http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/">http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/</a> )	2190 Radio Road	392-1575
Student health care center ( <a href="http://shcc.ufl.edu">http://shcc.ufl.edu</a> )	Infirmery Building	392-1161
Career Resource Center ( <a href="http://www.crc.ufl.edu">http://www.crc.ufl.edu</a> )	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Reitz Union	392-1601
FRE Undergraduate Staff ( <a href="http://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/undergrad/">http://fred.ifas.ufl.edu/undergrad/</a> )	1170 McCarty A	294-7640

**Academic Integrity:** <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

This course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Honor Code of the University of Florida: *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* I expect all work that you do in the course to be your own. Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines will result in judicial action.

## Course Syllabus: AEB 3550

**Class Structure:** This is a traditional lecture class on Monday through Thursday. All material will be posted on e-learning so as to provide equal access to all students but the only way to be sure you have all material and information is to attend class daily. I intend to use REEF polling daily (with the exception of exam days) in order to test learning as well as verify attendance. Your attendance score is explained in more detail below. Friday classes will be dedicated lab time to work on the course assignments. Detailed instructions on how to approach these quantitative assignments will be provided during these weekly lab sections.

### Course Assignments:

*Weekly assignments (best 5 of 6):* Each week there will be assignments that require the use of excel to apply statistical methods to economic and natural data. While it is important to learn how to use excel to apply statistical techniques, interpretation of the data and statistical output will be the focus of these assignments. These should be typed and thorough. Late submissions will be penalized 10 points per day late.

*Exams (3):* There will be three required exams in this class. Each exam will include multiple choice questions related to assignments, readings and lectures. Each exam will be weighted equally and material will build on itself although the exams will not be *explicitly* cumulative.

*Attendance:* This grade will be based on participation **and** performance in daily REEF polling. 5 classes will be “freebies” in case of problems with technology or absence (excused or otherwise). GPS will be enabled so that students cannot participate in these polls remotely.

### Composition of Final Score

Course Assignments	Total Points	% of Total Grade
Weekly assignments (best 5 of 6)	200 points (40 points each)	40%
Exams (3)	225 (75 points each)	45%
Attendance (REEF confirmed)	75 points	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Student Evaluation:** Grades will be assigned as follows (note no minuses will be awarded)

Grade	Percentage	Total Points	Grade Points
A	90.0% or more	≥ 450	4.00
B+	86.0 – 89.9%	430 – 449	3.33
B	80.0 – 85.9%	400 – 429	3.00
C+	76.0 – 79.9%	380 – 399	2.33
C	70.0 – 75.9%	350 – 379	2.00
D+	66.0 – 69.9%	330 – 349	1.33
D	60.0 – 65.9%	300 – 329	1.00
E	≤ 59.9%	≤ 299	0.00

***Your final letter grade will be posted on e-learning after the final exam. The professor has the right to change this point structure at any point so long as it improves the student’s final score.***

**Course Topics:**

This course is broken into three main sections: basic statistics review, hypothesis testing and regression analysis. The first part of the course will largely be a review of descriptive statistics which are used to summarize data either graphically, numerically or in tabular form. This is an essential first step in data analysis as it allows the research the become familiar with characteristics of the data that will be relevant for higher order inferential analysis. The second and third sections of the course apply inferential statistics to probability distributions. Inferential statistics involves generating, from a limited data set, information about statistical relationships and estimates about a population. The course is cumulative in that a firm understanding of distributions and descriptive statistical techniques is a pre-requisite to inferential analysis.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Topic	Week	Lecture Material
Part 1: Review of Statistics		
Review of Descriptive Statistics	1	Chapters 1-3
Introduction to Probability Distributions	2	Chapters 4-6
Part 2: Hypothesis Testing		
Sampling Distributions and Interval Estimation	3	Chapters 7-8
Hypothesis Testing and ANOVA	4	Chapters 9-10
Part 3: Regression		
Simple Linear Regression	5	Chapter 12
Multiple Regression	6	Chapter 13

**Expected Exam Schedule**

Midterm 1: Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>

Midterm 2: Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

Midterm 3: Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup>

**Academic Performance:**

Your grade on e-learning throughout the semester may not reflect your true performance in the course. You will earn points for correct assignments and exams throughout the semester and it is up to you to determine your progress in the course. It is my goal to teach students and not to “give grades” as I believe grades are earned. As such, consider the following guidelines when you have questions about your grade or class performance:

- If you have any questions about your score at any point, you may come to the professor during office hours to clarify the number of points you have and what points will be required to achieve your desired grade.
- Do NOT ask for clarification of your grade in class or after class. This type of discussion is reserved for office hours or email correspondence.

## Course Syllabus: AEB 3550

- Do NOT email me or come to office hours expecting to change your score on a given assignment unless an egregious error has been made in entering your grade into canvas (i.e. you failed to get credit for a completed assignment or an exam grade was entered incorrectly).
- Do NOT ask for additional points throughout the semester. It may be the case that bonus opportunities to gain additional points will be available; however, this is determined solely by the professor based on an assessment of the relevance of additional activities to course materials and learning objectives.

### **Expectations and feedback:**

I expect students to attend every class having done the assigned readings and assignments so that you are prepared to contribute. It is also my expectation that you will be open-minded and considerate of the thoughts and ideas of all of your fellow classmates. I will do my best to conduct organized and insightful class sessions and to treat your intellectual work with fairness and impartiality.

It is your choice to succeed or not succeed in my class and “success” means different things to different students. From my perspective, successful students are those who 1) do the readings, 2) do the assignments including non-graded assignments, 3) attend class and participate, and 4) study for exams. If you begin to struggle, it is your responsibility to come see me to determine what steps should be taken on your part to ensure your success in the class.

*Mrs. Sharp reserves the right to change the terms and dates stated in this course syllabus at any time. Any changes will be communicated in class, via the Gatorlink e-mail listserv, and posted on E-Learning. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of any changes.*