



Understanding Statistical Information Course Descriptor

Course Title	Understanding Statistical Information	Faculty	Economics
Course Code	NCHEC543	Course Leader	Dr Georgios Zouros
Credit Points	15	Teaching Period	Michaelmas
FHEQ Level	Level 5	Date Approved	June 2020
Compulsory/ Optional	Compulsory for Economics Minor students		
Pre-requisites	None		
Co-requisites	None		

COURSE SUMMARY

This is an introductory level course for those who wish to understand and use statistical information in social science, or in any other context. The course intended to familiarise students, and provide them with an introduction, to the ideas of probability, and of statistical methods and techniques. The course also enables the students to start on their journey to being able to appreciate empirical literature in the different fields of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

This course is intended to prepare students to recognise the appropriate use and the misuse of statistics in publicly available information and to draw valid conclusions from that information to use in the studies of their respective Major fields.

COURSE AIMS

- Develop the basic statistical tools necessary to analyse statistical data and to report the results of the analyses, and provide the understanding that will facilitate the critical appraisal of statistical data.
- Teach the ideas of descriptive statistics, probability theory, statistical inference and hypothesis testing, and simple regression.
- Apply those ideas systematically, with emphasis on their application to problems in the humanities, with the extended use of examples for motivation and illustration.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

- K1a recognise the statistical concepts and methods that would be useful in specific problems arising in the social sciences

SUBJECT SPECIFIC SKILLS

- S1a apply the concept of hypothesis testing in problems involving inferences about population statistics
- S2a solve problems involving probability, distributions, inference and regression

TRANSFERABLE AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- T1a be able to recognise when a verbal finding or assertion is competently based on statistical study, and be able to identify basic strengths and weaknesses in such commentary

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Students will have the opportunity to engage with:

- 1 x virtual learning environment (VLE)
- 15 x large-group hours
- 5.5 x tutorial hours (individual or group tutorial)
- Weekly office hours

Students are required to attend and participate in all timetabled sessions for this course and, with the ongoing support available, to manage their directed learning and independent study.

Total study hours for this course are: 150.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

- The course equips students with data literacy, which is a key transferable skill for a wide range of careers.
- The course includes a section on data visualisation, which is an increasingly important field in economic analysis, and also transferable to careers in other fields.

ASSESSMENT

FORMATIVE

Students will be formatively assessed during the course by means of set assignments. These do not count towards the end of year results, but will provide students with developmental

feedback, for example weekly exercises are provided and written answers are expected on a weekly basis.

SUMMATIVE

Assessment will be in one form:

AE:	Assessment Activity	Weighting (%)	Online submission	Duration	Length
1	Examination	100	N/A	2 hours	N/A

FEEDBACK

Students will receive formal feedback in a variety of ways: written (including via email correspondence); oral (within one-to-one tutorials or on an *ad hoc* basis) and indirectly through discussion during group tutorials. Students will also attend the formal meeting, Collections, at the end of Michaelmas and Hilary in which they will receive constructive and developmental feedback on their term’s performance.

Feedback is provided on written assignments (including essays, briefings and reports) and through generic internal examiners’ reports, both of which are posted on the College’s VLE.

INDICATIVE READING

Note: Comprehensive and current reading lists for courses are produced annually in the Course Syllabus or other documentation provided to students; the indicative reading list provided below is used as part of the approval/modification process only.

BOOKS

Newbold, P., W.L. Carlson and B.M. Thorne Statistics for Business and Economics. (London: Prentice-Hall, 2009) seventh edition.

INDICATIVE TOPICS

Students will study the following topics:

- Reliability of statistics as a tool, and reflection on the common uses and misuses of statistics
- Data Visualisation
- Centre and spread of a distribution
- Probability, conditional probability
- The Binomial, Poisson and Normal distributions
- Random sampling, sampling distributions
- Student's 't' distribution
- Confidence intervals and Hypothesis Tests
- Correlation and Regression

Title: NCHEC543 Understanding Statistical Information Course Descriptor					
Approved by: Academic Board					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Owner	Location	Proposed next review date
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
1.0	June 2020	June 2020	Marianna Koli	1 Academic Handbook > Course Descriptors 2 VLE	April 2025
Modifications (As per AQF4)					
Version number	Date approved	Date published	Modification (including category number)		
2.0	June 2021	June 2021	Category 2: Change to 'Teaching and Learning Strategy'		