

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Economics  
Economics 257D: Honours Statistics

Term 1 COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

September 2011: J.W. Galbraith (Term 1)

N.B.: You may not be able to get credit for this course if you take or have taken other statistics courses. Be sure to check the ‘Course Overlap’ section under ‘Faculty Degree Requirements’ in the Arts or Science sections of the Calendar.

**Primary text:**

Newbold, P. Statistics for Business and Economics. Sixth (?) Edition, Prentice Hall, 20xx. (Earlier editions are just fine, indeed superior in many ways, if you are willing to put up with some confusion over chapter numbers and assignment question numbers, which I will try to minimize.) Fifth and sixth editions also have co-authors W.L. Carlson and B. Thorne; first four editions are just Newbold. In the reading list I will refer to this book as **SBE**. I am ordering copies for this class via the bookstore, but I’m assuming that a number of you will get used versions.

I will also put on Webct some draft notes of my own as they get updated and added to, referred to in the reading list as **ES**.

The following supplementary references are more advanced, but you may wish to consult them for further reading, review, or problem resolution.

Mood, Graybill and Boes Introduction to the Theory of Statistics. McGraw-Hill, 1974.

Silvey, S.D. Statistical Inference. Chapman and Hall, 1975.

**Administrative notes:**

Official statements:

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for further information).*

*According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final exams. Please consult the calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations, at [www.mcgill.ca](http://www.mcgill.ca) .*

Evaluation is planned as follows (proportions are of the grade for the first term: divide by two for proportions of the full-year grade): First term: assignments 10%, December exam 90%, optional mid-term will replace part (15 percentage points) of December weight if written. If the optional mid-term is submitted, the grade will be used whether or not it brings up your mark; if you write it and hand it in, it counts. But you can choose not to write it or not to hand it in, with no penalty.

Second term will be taught by Prof. Victoria Zinde-Walsh, and will also have 50% weight in the year's grade, proportions assignments/exam TBA.

A numerical grade will be computed for each term. The grade for the year will be the equally-weighted average of the two individual term grades. A final letter grade will be obtained from the overall numerical grade. Any letter grades assigned at intermediate stages are for information only; computations will be based on the underlying numerical quantities. We do not do rounding of any intermediate (pre-final-grade) values.

Office: (JW Galbraith, Term 1) Leacock 427

Office hours: TBA.

If you cannot come during office hours, please make an appointment *in class* to see me at another time. *Please* do not e-mail me: my e-mail is clogged with no end of messages, and I have to do mass deletions or I'll do nothing but answer it all day.

### **Web CT:**

I'm going to try to post and update the following items regularly on WebCT:

- Course outline (under 'Syllabus')
- Early chapters from ES
- Assignments

Please let me know if things fail to appear in due course. In particular, this course outline should be there already...please let me know if you see this on paper but can't find it on WebCT.

## TOPICS

This is a tentative list of topics to be covered; we may not get through all of this, or we may do slightly more. Chapters in SBE are for the 6th edition; if these are different for 5th and 4th editions, the latter are given in brackets.

### 0. *Introduction*

- SBE, Ch. 1
- ES, Ch. 1

### 1. *Economic and financial data*

- ES, Ch. 2

### 2. *Descriptive statistics*

- SBE, Ch. 3 (some material from 2.) (4th edition, Ch. 2).
- ES, Ch. 3
- – Assignment 1

### 3. *Probability*

- SBE, Ch. 4 (4th edition: ch. 3)
- ES, Ch. 5. if I get it written
- [–Mood et al., Ch. 1-2]
- – Assignment 2

### 4. *Discrete and continuous probability distributions*

- SBE, Ch. 5-6 (4th edition: ch. 4-5)
- – Assignment 3

### 3. *Sampling*

- SBE, Ch. 7 (4th edition: ch. 6)
- [–Mood et al., Ch. 6 ]
- – Assignment 4 (Computation etc.)

### 4. *Point and interval estimation*

- SBE, Ch. 8-9 (5th edition, Ch. 8; 4th edition, Ch 7-8)
- [–Mood et al., Ch. 7-8]
- – Assignment 5 if time permits

### 5. *Introduction to hypothesis testing*

- SBE, Ch. 10 (5th and 4th editions, Ch. 9)
- [–Mood et al., Ch. 9]
- – Assignment 6 if time permits