COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the basic elements and methodology of Statistics. The course will roughly be divided into four parts, the first dealing with descriptive statistics, the second covering some basic probability theory, the third on statistical inference, and the last one on linear regressions. The main topics to be covered will be: data description, exploratory data analysis, probability theory, estimation and hypothesis testing, association between variables, regression analysis.

The goal of the course is to provide you with some basic tools that you can apply to any data analysis work that you may be called upon to perform in your professional life, or that you can simply use to interpret a report or a discussion carried out by others, be it on a daily newspaper or on the workplace. Statistics is a very powerful science, that will enable you to take more informed decisions in your future career. Therefore, the course will stress the application of these statistical concepts to actual data and to answer specific questions, both in the realm of Economics and in the wider context of social phenomena.
GRADING

The final course grade will be based on weekly homework assignments (problem sets and computer exercises) (25%), a midterm (30%), and a final exam (45%). If a student misses the midterm, the instructor will, at his discretion, provide a make-up midterm exam. On the other hand, no make-up exam will be provided for a missed final exam, under no circumstances. The homework assignments will be handed out during the Friday lecture and must be returned at the beginning of the following Friday lecture. NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Answers to the homework problems will be discussed in the weekly recitations by the TA. The following guidelines need to be respected for the homework:

- The answers need to be consistent with the notation of the textbook;
- Any calculation has to be accompanied by explanations;
- The answers have to be concise and to the point: points will be deducted for irrelevant material.

TEXTBOOKS

The main textbook for this course (available in the NYU bookstore) is:


Additional material will be distributed when relevant.

HOW TO REACH ME

The best way to reach me is via email, at:

Giorgio.Topa@nyu.edu

I will answer all email messages within 24 hours, unless I am out of town. Telephone messages may not be answered as promptly, as I may not be physically present in my office at all times.