Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 1:20 - 2:35 pm.; Main 401.
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 - 12:00 am; 269 Mercer St., Room 322.
Email: Topag@fasecon.econ.nyu.edu

TA: Marco Cipriani
Recitations: Monday 9:55 - 11:10 am (Tisch UC55), or Tuesday, 2:50 - 4:05 pm (Main 713).
Office Hours: Monday 11:30 - 12:30 & Thursday 1:50 - 2:50; 269 Mercer St., Room 837/A
- (please bring your notes to the office hours).
Email: Cipriani@fasecon.econ.nyu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the basic elements and methodology of Statistics. The course will roughly be divided into three parts, the first dealing with descriptive statistics, the second covering some basic probability theory, and the last one on statistical inference. The main topics to be covered will be: data description, exploratory data analysis, probability theory, estimation and hypothesis testing.
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) (30%), a midterm (30%), and a final exam (40%). The homework assignments will be handed out during the Wednesday lecture and must be returned at the beginning of the following Wednesday 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 textbooks for this course (available in the NYU bookstore) are:


In addition, chapters will be distributed from a manuscript: Ramsey, *Introductory Statistics: A Text to Relate Theory and Experiment to Everyday Life*.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE

The statistical software package SAS will be used in the empirical computer assignments. SAS will be accessible through an ACF computer account that will be made available to you. There will be at least one computer lab session at Tisch Hall to help you familiarize with the software.

HOW TO REACH ME

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

Topag@fasecon.econ.nyu.edu

I will answer all email messages within 12 hours, unless I am out of town. Telephone messages may not be answered, as I may not be physically present in my office at all times.