

Instructor	M. Stob
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Office Hours	11-12 M,Th 1-2 Tu,F
Text	<i>Mathematics 243: Statistics</i> M. Stob
Website	www.calvin.edu/~stob/courses/m243/S08
Tests	February 26, April 1, April 29
Exam	Saturday, May 10, 6 PM

Final Grade The final grade will be a weighted average of your grades on homework, projects, tests, and the final exam. The weights used in determining the final grade will begin at:

Tests	45%
Projects	5%
Homework	10%
Exam	30%

It is obvious that 10% of the grade is not determined by the above schedule. The 10% will be distributed to the four categories so as to maximize your grade with the exception that at most an additional 5% will be allocated to the project grade. Additionally, you may earn up to 5% extra credit in certain ways described below.

Textbook The textbook is a work in progress. You may read more about why the text is being written in its preface. You will receive the textbook over time in chunks, appropriately punched for a three-ring binder. The current version of the text will always be available on-line at the course website. The on-line version has certain advantages including the ability to click on links to the internet and to other parts of the book. A first edition of a textbook always has errors as well as other infelicities. You are encouraged to submit corrections, suggestions, or comments on any aspect of the text. Such submissions will always receive “extra credit.” Wise students will realize that if the instructor takes the trouble to write the text, they should take the trouble to read it. Students are responsible for everything in the text even if it is not explicitly mentioned in class. Daily reading assignments will be given and class time will be reserved for questions about the reading.

Homework Besides reading assignments, written homework will be assigned daily. Homework assigned on Monday and Tuesday is normally due on Thursday and will be collected at the beginning of class on Friday. Homework assigned on Thursday and Friday is normally due on Monday and will be collected on Tuesday. Questions about the homework may be discussed in class on the due date (Mondays and Thursdays). No late homework is accepted for any but the most extraordinary reason. However I will consider a homework score of 90% perfect so as to give you some opportunity to miss a few homework assignments. In addition to daily homework assignments, there will be three short projects for which you will have a longer time to complete. More details about the projects will be distributed closer to the due date.

Tests Tests are given only at the scheduled times. The dates above are tentative and subject to revision by class vote. The weeks of the tests are fixed however. Any test might have a small take-home component. Rather than attempting to decide which excuses for missing tests are sufficiently exculpatory, and realizing that there are such excuses, I will allow you to miss any test for any reason you deem acceptable. However, there are no makeup tests. Rather, if you miss a test your exam grade will replace that of the missed test. Also, if your exam grade is higher than the grade of a test that you take, I will substitute the exam grade for that test grade. It would be tempting to rely on this policy and not take tests seriously. This is usually a mistake as most students do somewhat better on individual tests than on a cumulative final exam. Notice though that this policy and the grading weights described above virtually ensure an A to anyone who gets an A on the final exam.

Final Exam The final exam is given only at the scheduled time. The college requires that I give and you take the exam at this time! The final exam is cumulative. There may be a take-home component to the exam.

Extra Credit Three kinds of activities are optional but will contribute to your receiving extra credit. First, you may submit in writing suggestions for the improvement of the textbook. Anything from typographical errors to suggestions for the improvement of the exposition will be accepted. Second, you may contribute (in spreadsheet form) datasets that you think your classmates and instructor would find interesting enough to do some analysis. For example, these datasets might come from your own work in different courses. Third, you may contribute articles from newspapers or magazines that are good examples of statistics being used in ways discussed in the course.

Collaboration It is perfectly acceptable to help each other. I encourage you to work together on any assignment unless I explicitly say otherwise. Of course academic

honesty and common sense require that only honest effort on your part be rewarded; do not turn in “joint” work which is really only the work of someone else. However you do not have to feel guilty turning in work that reflects mostly the good ideas of someone else if you were genuinely working together. Even if your work is joint, you should write your own solutions as independently as possible. That is, do not simply copy from others. This is to ensure that you really understand the solution. You should always indicate who you collaborated with on a problem.

See Me If you are having trouble with the course, if you don’t understand something important, if you have some special circumstance that is getting in the way of performing well in this class, or you just want to talk about the course, **see me**. While I have office hours, I encourage you to come see me anytime that I am in my office (which is most of the day everyday). While I check email regularly and will answer it promptly, email isn’t very useful for answering the more technical questions that might come up in homework. Also, don’t assume that just because you are awake and writing email that I am awake and reading email!

Attendance I do not require attendance or make attendance any part of the grade. If you miss class for any reason however, you are responsible for determining what you missed. The outline handed out each day will be posted on the web soon after class to help you determine that. Likewise I will try to post any handouts or important announcements. No reason for missing class excuses any late homework. If you plan to miss class on a Tuesday or Friday, make sure that your homework does not (unless you do not want it to count). I plan to start on time and end on time and common courtesy to your classmates suggests that you plan likewise. If you must come late or leave early (it happens), be as unobtrusive as you can.

Disabilities Calvin will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Student Academic Services office. Students requiring such accommodations should meet with me during the first week of class.

Exceptions I reserve the right to make changes or exceptions to the above policies either for the whole class or for individuals. The ultimate goal in this course is learning and formal requirements should not unnecessarily stand in the way of this. As a consequence, if you (individually or collectively) think that any of the above conditions are interfering with learning, let me know and we’ll see what can be done.