

# THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

### COURSE BASICS

Course Number: STAT 1380 CRN 24374  
Course Title: Statistical Literacy  
Credit Hours: 3  
Term: Spring 2026  
Meeting and Location: Online  
Prerequisite Courses: An adequate score on placement examination or MATH 0311

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Annette Franco  
Office Location: Bell Hall 206

### Contact

Instructor e-mail: [apfranco@utep.edu](mailto:apfranco@utep.edu)  
Math Department: [mathdept@utep.edu](mailto:mathdept@utep.edu)

Please allow at least one business day for the return of e-mails. Weekend e-mails will be attended to during regular business hours and other times at the instructor's discretion. If your email does not get a reply for more than 5 days, that is because your answer can be found on Blackboard and/or this syllabus.

Student Office Hours:

- **Via Zoom:** By appointment

Student office hours are a time where you can get individualized help from me. I am available to answer questions about course content and address any concerns you have about the class. You are not required to attend office hours if you do not have questions.

Office hours are only held during normal university scheduling (not during finals week or when the university is closed).

## REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY AND MATERIALS

### Textbook

Seeing Through Statistics by Jessica Utts 5th Edition with a WebAssign access code.

#### *Required*

You must have the WebAssign access code. This gives you full access to both the assignments and the e-book.

#### *Optional*

A hard copy of the textbook is available but not required for the class. The e-book is adequate and comes with the required access code.

### Calculator

You may use the free online Desmos calculators: [Desmos Graphing Calculator](#), [Desmos Scientific Calculator](#).

### Online Components

You are required to purchase a WebAssign account.

Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have consistent access to the internet and a stable web browser. [Mozilla Firefox](#), [Google Chrome](#), and [Safari](#) are the most supported browsers for both Blackboard and WebAssign.

You will need to have regular access to a computer or laptop. Your cell phone is not sufficient for doing coursework. You will need to download or update the following software:

- Microsoft Office (available for free through UTEP),
- [Adobe](#),
- [Windows Media Player](#) or [QuickTime Player](#), and
- [Java](#).

### Blackboard

Inside of our Blackboard course you will be able to see announcements and course materials. These specific set of materials will help prepare you for your homework assignments and subsequently your exams. Nothing is to be turned in via Blackboard. Blackboard houses the resources to aid with your assignments and for communicating information from instructor to student.

## Webassign

WebAssign is an online Course Management System of Cengage, the publisher of our text. You must have reliable internet to take this course. Use the link below to register for WebAssign using your official *UTEP email account*.

<https://www.getenrolled.com/?courseKey=utep13567453>

You only need to register once. The next time that you need to log in to WebAssign, visit [www.webassign.net](http://www.webassign.net), click on "SIGN IN", enter your credentials, click on "My Courses", then click on the textbook for our class.

You are required to purchase an access code in order to keep your account active. The eBook option from the UTEP bookstore comes with an access code. You may also choose to purchase the access code directly from within WebAssign. You have 14 days of free WebAssign access. **The free-trial ends on Monday, February 2.**

WebAssign Resources:

You will have access to the eBook from within your WebAssign homepage. You will also be able to access and view lecture videos that Cengage has created for each section of the book. You will find these videos by clicking on the Resources tab located at the bottom of your WebAssign homepage. Lastly, utilize the 'Class Insights' page on WebAssign to target the topics that you need to study.

## COURSE OVERVIEW

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course will explore a variety of statistical concepts with emphasis on real life applications. After successfully completing this course, a student will be able to critically evaluate statistics found in the media and their field of study. The class will introduce the topics of data collection, interpretation, and communication of real-world data. We will also explore the limitations of statistical models/methods.

### Activities and Assignments

You will find all assignments on [www.webassign.net](http://www.webassign.net) along with their due dates. Please use Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or Safari since WebAssign works best with these browsers. All work will take place through WebAssign. In-Class assignments, homework assignments, quizzes, three midterm exams, and a comprehensive final exam will be given. Nothing is to be turned in or completed via email or Blackboard.

#### *Tutoring*

The MaRCS tutoring center offers free tutoring for math classes; their website has more information:

<https://www.utep.edu/science/math/marcs/>

There are several useful features in WebAssign designed to give extra help. These include "Watch it" and "Master it" links. These are publisher created and are enabled for any homework question in which they are available.

I am also available during office hours to help with questions.

## Class Activity Settings

### In-Class Assignments (Concept Explorations)

In-Class assignments provide lecture videos and a mix of multiple choice and discussion questions. Be sure to expand and answer all parts of each question. You have 3 attempts per multiple choice question. The points for the discussion questions may or may not be adjusted throughout the semester. A final grading of discussion questions will not be given until the TA has gotten to and graded them.

### Homework Assignments

You have 3 attempts per homework question blank. The Ask Your Teacher Feature of WebAssign is the best way to ask questions about your homework as it shows me and the TA the entire problem. You are encouraged to use this as the first method of contact whenever you have homework questions. I ask that you attempt the problems on your own before asking for help and that you be clear on what you are struggling to understand. The Ask Your Teacher Feature has a chat box that will allow us to communicate back and forth about the problem. A message icon next to the homework assignment that you required assistance on will pop up once we have replied. **You will receive 5% extra credit for any answers submitted more than 48 hours before the due date.**

### Labs

Lab assignments include discussion questions and will require you to upload your results. Be sure to expand all tabs and answer all parts of each question. You have 5 attempts per question. The points for the file entries and discussion questions may or may not be adjusted throughout the semester. A final grading of labs will not be given until the TA has gotten to and graded them.

### Quizzes

After each chapter, you will have a 60-minute timed quiz over that material. The quizzes may contain problems you have not seen previously, but they will be based on the same concepts. You have 2 attempts per question blank. The password is the word: **ready**

### Exams

The midterm exams will be available on WebAssign for 48 hours. The exam itself is timed at 120 minutes (two hours). There are 20 questions and you have 2 attempts per question blank. The password is the word: **ready**

### Final Exam

The final exam will be available for 48 hours during final exams week. This is a comprehensive exam and is required for all students. The final exam is worth 20% of your overall course grade. The final exam is timed at 165 minutes (2hr 45min). There are 30 questions and you have 2 attempts per question blank. The password is the word: **ready**

### *Timed Assignments:*

For all timed assignments, the timer begins once you click on the link to open the assignment. So, enter the password **ready** as soon as possible. This timer will not stop for any reason, not even if you log out. For this reason, it is important to check for any updates on your computer before beginning. It is also important to ensure that your laptop is fully charged or plugged in. Once you begin the exam, the due date will change to reflect the time limit.

## Make-up Policy

### In-Class and Homework Assignments

One (1) extension per in-class and homework assignment can be requested within 48 hours after the due date. **It is important that you do not miss this extension window as I will not be extending the assignment for you.** To extend homework assignments, log in to WebAssign and click on My Assignments then Past Assignments. Scroll to the assignment you want to extend and click Request Extension. Select "Automatic" and "Accept" the extension. You will have 72 hours from the time that you click "Accept" to complete the extended assignment. Note and pay close attention to the new due date and time. You will not be penalized for submitting late work. However, it is best to turn in your homework assignments by the original due date so that you are ready for exams and do not fall behind.

**WARNING:** Do NOT view the answer key to a homework assignment before requesting the extension for it. You will be denied an extension from both WebAssign and from me if you view the answer key.

### Lab Assignments

One (1) extension per lab can be requested within 24 hours after the due date. **It is important that you do not miss this extension window as I will not be extending the assignment for you.** To extend lab assignments, log in to WebAssign and click on My Assignments then Past Assignments. Scroll to the assignment you want to extend and click Request Extension. Select "Automatic" and "Accept" the extension. You will have 24 hours from the time that you click "Accept" to complete the extended assignment. Note and pay close attention to the new due date and time. You will not be penalized for submitting late work. However, it is best to turn in your homework assignments by the original due date so that you are ready for exams and do not fall behind.

### Exams and Quizzes

There are no automatic extensions for quizzes or exams. Please make plans to take a quiz or exam early if you have a conflict. **Extensions on exams and quizzes will only be granted for solid reasons that are accompanied by verifiable documentation.** Verifiable documentation includes but is not limited to the following: (1) doctor's note, (2) military orders, (3) university sponsored event notice, (4) a clear screenshot or video of the technical issue at that time it is happening, (5) a Cengage help-desk ticket number, (6) a report showing there was an outage (of electricity, Internet, or WebAssign), (7) court summons, (8) police report, (9) obituary notice.

If the reason is sensitive/personal, it is acceptable to just relay an email or note from, for example, a doctor or counselor that does not identify the specific condition/issue but attests that "Student X has a condition/situation which reasonably prevented her from being able to attend to schoolwork during the period [insert specific date(s)]." Work is not a valid excuse for missing exams. Plan your class work around your work schedule. Requests for an extension must be made in a timely manner.

### Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare if you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work (answers to homework, quizzes, and exams) in a separate Word document or hand-written notebook as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the [UTEP Help Desk](#)..

You can email me your back-up document as a last resort. You must also have proof of the technical issue with either a screen shot of the WebAssign issue or email from your internet provider of an outage in your area.

## Extra-Credit Policy

I am not authorized to make “deals” with individuals. The grade you receive is the grade you earn; nothing more and nothing less. However, you do have the opportunity to receive 5% extra credit points for any HOMEWORK answers submitted more than 48 hours before the due date.

## Important Course Dates

Semester highlights are included.

- January 20 First Day of Classes
- February 4 Census Day (Last day to drop without a W)
- March 16 – 20 Spring Break (no classes)
- March 27 Cesar Chavez Day (no classes)
- April 2 Drop Day (Last day to drop with a W)
- April 3 Spring Study Day (no classes)
- May 7 Last day of classes
- May 11 - 15 Final Exams Week

## Drop Policy

Students who decide to drop the course must process a drop form by e-mailing [records@utep.edu](mailto:records@utep.edu) by Thursday, April 2 before 5:00 PM MDT. Please note that the College of Science will remain aligned with the university and **will not approve any drop requests after that date.**

## Grading Policy

Your overall grade will consist of the weighted average of your scores.

- 5% In-Class Assignments (Concept Explorations)
- 5% Labs
- 15% Homework Assignments
- 10% Quizzes
- 15% Exam 1
- 15% Exam 2
- 15% Exam 3
- 20% Final Exam

Letter grades are determined according to the following scale:

Grade	Score
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69

## Incomplete Grade Policy

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

## Attendance Policy

You are expected to work toward the completion of the course assignments daily. Attendance in this course is measured by the completed tasks. Failing to complete tasks in a timely manner is equivalent to being absent. Being absent without appropriate communication may result in you being dropped from the course. You are expected to check the due dates on WebAssign regularly. You should also be frequently checking Blackboard and your UTEP miners e-mail for announcements.

## ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

### Academic Integrity Policy

The University policy is that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

**I strongly discourage the use of sites such as Chegg, CourseHero, math apps, etc. in this class.** If found to have consulted or contributed any material related to this class, you will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict resolution as this could be considered a violation of the H.O.O.P. The HOOP can be found here [Handbook of Operation Procedures](#)

Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents' Rules and Regulations, which are available for inspection electronically at [Regents' Rules and Regulations](#)

All students are expected and required to obey the law, comply with the Regents' Rules and Regulations, with System and University rules, with directives issued by an administrative official during his or her authorized duties, and observe standards of conduct appropriate for the university. A student who enrolls at the university is charged with the obligation to conduct himself/herself in a manner compatible with the university's function as an educational institution.

Any student who engages in conduct that is prohibited by Regents' Rules and Regulations, U. T. System or University rules, specific instructions issued by an administrative official or by federal, state, or local laws is subject to discipline, whether such conduct takes place on or off-campus or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

As you will be taking online exams this semester, please take a moment to review this list of activities considered cheating by the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). [Ways to Cheat](#)

## Chat GPT and other AI platforms

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become more easily accessible recently. We recognize there are useful functions of this technology and encourage you to use it ethically and responsibly for your academic endeavors. For example, it is fine to use AI to generate practice problems or examples to help you learn a concept (be cautious assuming everything you get is correct – sometimes it isn't!). However, it would be inappropriate and academically dishonest to submit work to be graded that was written or assisted by an AI program (e.g. Chat GPT). Just like the other tools you have available to help you through this course, you'll need to consider when and how to use them to help you meet your learning goals. If you are in doubt, please consult the instructor or any guidance UTEP may issue.

## Course Netiquette Policy

All correspondence with your instructor, TA, and other students should be conducted in an appropriate and professional manner. Please be considerate of your tone and word choice when conducting correspondence.

## Accommodation Policy

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747- 5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) , or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

## Military Statement

If you are a military student with the potential of being called to military service or training during the semester, you are encouraged to contact me as soon as you receive your orders.

## Copyright Statement

### Course Materials

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

### Academic and Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus, Academic Resources.
- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.

### Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

### Health

- UTEP counseling center, Student Health and Wellness Center
- El Paso coronavirus hotline (915) 212-6843, El Paso COVID-19 information,
- El Paso's 24-hour Mental Health Crisis Line (915) 779-1800
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline or Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255
- NAMI (National Alliance Against Mental Illness) of El Paso (915) 534-5478