BISC 305: Statistics for the Biological Sciences

**Lectures:** T and Th, 11:00 AM – 12:20 PM, VKC 101  
**Discussion:** M or W, 1:00 – 1:50 PM, RRI 301

**Instructor:** Peter Calabrese, petercal@usc.edu, 213-740-2434, RRI 403F  
**Office hours:** T 3:00 – 5:00 PM, or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Saket Choudhary, skchoudh@usc.edu, 213-821-3990, RRI 408D  
**Office hours:** T 5:00 – 6:00 PM, Th 9:00 – 10:00 AM

**Course Content**

Statistics for the Biological Sciences is an introductory course in statistics addressed to students in the life sciences. The learning objective is to illustrate statistical reasoning in biological science and medicine. The students will learn probability models, experimental design, statistical analyses, and interpretation of results. The course uses real data from life sciences.

**Textbook**


**Grading**

There are two mid-term examinations (15% each), a quiz each Thursday (15%), and a final examination (35%). All examinations will occur as scheduled below: there will be no make-up examinations. Note particularly that university regulations strictly regulate the final examination date and time. In addition, there will be homework assignments (10%) and two data analysis projects (5% each). It is important that students do the homework: I believe that students learn the most when working on the homework. A 50% grade deduction will be imposed for late homework, and no homework later than one week will be accepted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wk. 1</td>
<td>08/27/19 Introduction. Chapter 1, 1-26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/29/19 Description of Samples and Populations. Chapter 2, 27-39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk. 2</td>
<td>09/03/19 Description of Samples and Populations. Chapter 2, 40-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/05/19 Description of Samples and Populations. Chapter 2, 59-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wk. 3</td>
<td>09/10/19 Description of Samples and Populations. Chapter 2, 68-82,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Probability and the Binomial Distribution. Chapter 3, 83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09/12/19 Probability and the Binomial Distribution. Chapter 3, 88-98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wk. 4 09/17/19  Probability and the Binomial Distribution. Chapter 3, 99-115
         09/19/19  The Normal Distribution. Chapter 4, 122-133

Wk. 5 09/24/19  The Normal Distribution. Chapter 4, 133-140
         Sampling Distribution. Chapter 5, 146-159
         09/26/19  Confidence Intervals. Chapter 6, 171-193

Wk. 6 10/01/19  Confidence Intervals. Chapter 6, 193-208,211-222
         10/03/19  **First Midterm**

Wk. 7 10/08/19  Comparing of Two Independent Samples. Chapter 7, 223-240
         10/10/19  Comparing of Two Independent Samples. Chapter 7, 241-249

Wk. 8 10/15/19  Association and causation, one-side t-test. Chapter 7, 250-267
         10/17/19  Fall recess

Wk. 9 10/22/19  Statistical significance, hypothesis testing principles,
         Chapter 7, 268-275, 281-290
         10/24/19  The Wilcoxon-Mann-Whiney test, Chapter 7, 291-306

Wk. 10 10/29/19  Paired sample t-test and confidence interval, Chapter 8, 307-318
         10/31/19  Paired sample signed test, Chapter 8, 325-337

Wk. 11 11/05/19  Categorical data, estimation of proportion, Chapter 355-365
         11/07/19  Categorical data, goodness-of-fit, Chapter 9, 368-382

Wk. 12 11/12/19  Categorical data, relationships, Chapter 10, 383-401, 407-412
         11/14/19  **Second Midterm**

Wk. 13 11/19/19  Many Samples, ANOVA, Chapter 11, 442-454
         11/21/19  Many samples, one and two-way ANOVA,
         Chapter 11, 455-465, 478-487

Wk. 14 11/26/19  Regression, correlation, Chapter 12, 511-524
         11/28/19  Thanksgiving

Wk. 15 12/03/19  Regression, linear model, Chapter 12, 525-536
         12/05/19  Regression, linear model guidelines, Chapter 12, 537-560

**Final Exam: Dec 17, 8am-10am**
Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086 equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421 studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776 dsp.usc.edu
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710 studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101 diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu
Non-emergency assistance or information.