



Welcome to Math 15

Course Name: Introduction to Statistics

Section #: Math – 15 – V2187

Instructor: G. Todd Olsen

Instructor Contact Information: todd-olsen@redwoods.edu

Course delivery: This course is delivered and taught 100% online; there are no classroom meetings. Students are required to watch video lectures, participate in online discussions and submit course work through Canvas.

Course Description: The study of statistical methods as applied to descriptive statistics and inferential statistics. An emphasis on the meaning and use of statistical significance will be central to the course. Students will use frequency distributions, graphs, measures of relative standing, measures of central tendency, measures of variability, correlation, and linear regression to explore descriptive statistics. Students will use the laws of probability and statistical tests (t-tests, chi-square, ANOVA, and regression analysis) to make decisions via hypothesis testing and estimate parameters using confidence intervals.

Student Readiness: Are you ready for online classes? Please take about 15 minutes to review what it means to take an online class by watching the [Introduction to Online Learning](#) presentation.

Student Commitment: Your commitment will require at least as much time as you dedicate to a traditional class. College of the Redwoods instructors are required to provide at least 54 hours of “work” during the semester. (See [college catalog](#) page 18). Since this is a 4 unit course, you should expect to spend at least 216 hours on this course this semester. This works out to at least 14 hours of effort on average each week. Additionally, while I try to keep the work load evenly distributed during the semester, there may be some weeks which require more time than others depending on which assignments or activities are assigned that particular week.

Types of effort required for success:

- carefully read online lectures and textbook chapters
- participate in online activities and watch online videos
- participate in online discussions, and
- complete quizzes.

Conscientiousness, attention to details, and skills in reading and writing are critical for success.

Computer Skills: Online courses require adequate computer skills. You must be able to:

- navigate the course Learning Management System (Canvas)
- receive and respond to your CR email
- download and upload files to the Canvas, and
- use a word processor (such as Microsoft Word)

It is your responsibility to meet the technological demands of the course.

Computer Requirements: You should have high-speed internet (such as broadband) service from cable, DSL, or satellite providers as there are videos that require this speed. You need to have reliable access to the internet for the duration of the course. Anticipate problems with your computer and internet access (including power outages) by not waiting until the last minute to submit assignments. It is your responsibility to meet the class deadlines.

Portable Devices vs. Computers: Although you can use late-model portable devices (such as Android or iOS phones & tablets) for some things, you should plan on doing the majority of your work (especially exams and assignments) from a reasonably late-model notebook or desktop computer (Mac or PC). *Do NOT plan to participate in this class solely from a phone or tablet.* If you do decide to use your portable device for **some** of your class work, use the free Canvas app (called “Canvas by Instructure”) available in iTunes (for iOS) and the Google Play Store (for Android). Do not try to connect to Canvas using a web browser on a portable device. Your experience with Canvas will be a lot better using the app.

Proctored Exams: There are no proctored exams for this class.

Textbooks:

Interactive Statistics, 3rd ed., Martha Aliaga and Brenda Gunderson, ISBN-10: 0131497561 or ISBN-13: 9780131497566.

Naked Statistics, Charles Wheelan, ISBN 978-0-393-34777-7.

Other Materials:

1. A Texas Instruments TI 83 or TI 84 graphing calculator. Any version (plus, silver edition, etc.) will work just fine. Students sometimes ask about whether other graphing calculators will work, but the answer is no. The required calculators have very Stats specific menus and applications that do not exist on other TI’s and certainly not on other brands of calculators.
2. A digital camera, smart phone or other device capable of taking photos that can be converted to PDF format.

Course Availability: The course will be available on CR’s Canvas system beginning August 20. On or after that date, you must login to Canvas at <https://redwoods.instructure.com> to enter our “classroom.”

Login instructions for Canvas:

1. Open your web browser and go to <https://redwoods.instructure.com>
2. Your Username is the same as your **Webadvisor User ID** (e.g., flast123 - first initial + lastname + last 3 digits of your student ID number.) Your initial password is your 8-digit birthdate (mmddyyyy).
3. Once logged in, on top left-hand side of the screen you should see a drop down menu of your Courses.

Written Communication Skills: As this is a fully online course, access to your professor (“Todd”) and interaction with your peers (other students) happens within the Canvas world. Private conversations with me happen via Canvas’ messaging system. You may ask me a private question at any time during the course of the semester. Detailed questions get detailed responses from me. It’s important to participate in a fashion where you are asking me frequent questions. Much of my assessment of your understanding of key statistical ideas comes through written tasks and assignments.

It’s also very important to keep in mind that I do not judge your grammar, and you will see me make grammatical errors throughout the semester as well. You’ll see me put an incomplete or wrong word in responses periodically. The important thing is that we are all doing our best to communicate, in as much detail possible, with each other. Equally important is that we maintain a friendly and professional rapport with each other at all times.

Canvas Help:

There are instructions on the basics of Canvas and additional help with preparation for taking an online course at College of the Redwoods on the [CR-Online](#) web page

Confirm your presence in the online classroom: Log in to the website and post to the “Introduce Yourself” discussion forum no later than 11:59pm on August 25 to confirm your presence in the online classroom. Doing so will confirm your enrollment in the course and avoid being dropped as a “no show.”

For more information contact me at todd-olsen@redwoods.edu