COURSE SYLLABUS
MA1900: STATISTICAL LITERACY IN TODAY’S SOCIETY (3 CREDITS)
FALL 2018

INSTRUCTOR: Annie Hager Hyde 352 535-2969 aehager@plymouth.edu

OFFICE HOURS: 1:00-1:45 pm MWF, 9:30-10:30 am Wednesdays, or by appointment.

CLASS MEETING DETAILS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE #</th>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>ROOM</th>
<th>FINAL EXAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA1900.01</td>
<td>11010</td>
<td>2:00-2:50 pm</td>
<td>Hyde 316</td>
<td>Wednesday, December 12, 2-4:30 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Learn to interpret and evaluate reports in the media on studies of substance dependency, medical issues and other socio-cultural concerns. The goal is to learn to understand the statistics encountered in the news or in everyday life rather than to learn specific statistical techniques.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Students should understand issues concerning the following:
1. Data versus anecdote
2. The nature of variability
3. Observational versus Experimental Studies
4. Random sampling and assignment
5. Association versus causation
6. Common sources of bias
7. Obtaining or generating data
8. Graphing as a first step in analyzing data
9. Interpreting numerical summaries of data
10. Communicating the results

REQUIRED MATERIALS:
❖ Access to WebAssign, the online learning platform used in this course for homework, readings, videos, and quizzes. Access will also include an e-version of the textbook, Statistics by Learning Objectives, published by Cengage, ISBN: 9781337687591, copyright 2018.
❖ A basic calculator is also required.

GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 3</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Participation, and Group Work</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>150 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>300 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>1000 pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
- As stated in the academic catalog, “students are urged to recognize the importance of participation in class activities and to be aware that their course grade may be affected by unexcused absences.”
- Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve any student of any course requirement.
- You will be asked to sign an attendance sheet each time you attend class. At the end of the semester, if you have 3 or fewer unexcused absences, 2.5% will be added to your final course grade.
- The complete university policy can be found here: https://www.plymouth.edu/undergraduate/files/2010/11/Class-Attendance-Policy.pdf

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND EXPECTATIONS:
- The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore prohibited during class. Absolutely no cell phone use in class. This includes texting. You may leave your phone on in case of an emergency, but be sure it is set to vibrate. It is inappropriate to use the computer during class time for anything other than class-related tasks.
- Students in violation of policies regarding personal electronic devices will be asked to leave and will have an unexcused absence recorded for that day.
- If you must arrive late or leave the classroom, please do so in a minimally disruptive manner.
- Be respectful of and courteous to your classmates.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES:
- Exams must be taken at the times scheduled unless prior arrangements have been made.
- The online learning tool, WebAssign, will be used extensively in this class for homework assignments, quizzes, and information sharing. Therefore, each student will need to have regular access to WebAssign for this course.
- EXTRA HELP: The Math Activities Center (MAC) provides free drop-in peer-tutoring in Hyde 351. The MAC opens for the semester on Tuesday, September 4th. Fall semester hours are: Monday through Thursday 10-5, and Fridays 10-2. The MAC webpage link is http://www.plymouth.edu/services/math-center/.

ACADEMIC HONESTY/INTEGRITY POLICY:
As stated in the academic catalog, “Academic integrity is the foundation of the pursuit of knowledge. All members of the academic community are expected to be dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge in an honest, responsible, respectful, and ethical manner.”
- The complete university policy can be found here: https://campus.plymouth.edu/faculty-governance/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2017/05/PSU-Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf
GENERAL EDUCATION CONNECTIONS:

Quantitative Reasoning: the ability to analyze quantitative material, and use quantitative techniques to solve problems. Mathematics finds application in all fields of scholarship. All disciplines make use of quantitative reasoning in some way and to some extent. Students take a Quantitative Reasoning (Q) course specified as required for their major. This course may be taught within the major discipline or not. It might teach quantitative techniques used as primary or secondary tools within the discipline or might be a course in which students of less quantitative disciplines come to deepen their appreciation of the relevance of quantitative reasoning to us all.

This course focuses on real-life applications of quantitative reasoning, and provides students the opportunity, through research, to explore relevant connections between quantitative reasoning and their own major field of study.

ADA STATEMENT:

Plymouth State University is committed to providing students with documented disabilities equal access to all university programs and facilities. If you think you have a disability requiring accommodations, you should immediately contact Campus Accessibility Services (CAS) in Speare 210 (535-3300) to determine whether you are eligible for such accommodations. Academic accommodations will only be considered for students who have registered with CAS. If you have a Letter of Accommodation for this course from CAS, please provide the instructor with that information privately so that you and the instructor can review those accommodations.

HOMEWORK AND TEST DATES (subject to change, check with instructor):

Test 1       Wednesday, October 3
Test 2       Wednesday, October 31
Test 3       Friday, November 30
Student Presentations: December 3, 5, and 7

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Labor Day: September 3
Indigenous Peoples Day: October 8
6-week grades posted: October 12
Withdrawal deadline: November 2
Thanksgiving Recess: November 21-25

The Complete Academic Calendar can be found here: https://campus.plymouth.edu/registrar/2018-2019-academic-calendar/