

STA 201 - Why Numbers Matter L0101
M 2-3, W 1-3 HS 610

Instructor: Karen H. Wong - karen.huynhwong@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: W: 3:30-4:30 PM, R: 12:30-2 PM in SS 6008

Textbook: We will be using *Quantitative Literacy (2nd Ed.)* by Crauder, Evans, Johnson, Noell with the LaunchPad learning tool. You are required to have LaunchPad for this course. The bookstore has the following options:

Option 1: LaunchPad access only (includes e-book version of the textbook) (\$)

Option 2: Loose-leaf copy of the textbook + LaunchPad access (\$\$)

Option 3: e-book only (\$)

Course Website: All lecture slides, problem sets, course information will be posted on Blackboard. Course materials provided on Blackboard are for the use of students currently enrolled in this course only. Providing course materials to anyone outside of the course is unauthorized use.

Course Description: This course teaches non-science students the importance of quantitative reasoning to many different areas. It explores a variety of applications to such diverse subjects as economics, gambling, politics, poetry, graphics, music, medicine, demographics, sports, secret codes, and more, using only basic high school level mathematics combined with logical thinking.

Exclusions: This course is not open to first-year students, nor to students enrolled in any science Major or Specialist program

Grading: There will be multiple evaluations in form of assignments and midterms. The maximum of the two grading schemes below will be used at the end of the course:

Assessment	Scheme 1	Scheme 2	Date
Online Syllabus Hunt	1%	1%	Jan. 12
Participation (PollEverywhere)	6%	0%	During Class
Individual Assignments	8% each	10% each	Jan. 29, Mar. 12, Apr. 4
Midterm	29%	29%	Mar. 7, During Class
Final Exam	40%	40%	TBD

Assignments: Due to available TA resources, only select problems on the assignments will be evaluated. **For this term, assignments will be submitted through Crowdmark or LaunchPad.** Official due dates will be posted on the assignment PDF. Late assignments will be penalized. A penalty of 10% for every hour interval that the assignment is late. For example, if the assignment was submitted 10 minutes after the due date, there would be a penalty of 10%.

Grading Policy: Any answers on assignments, midterms, and final exam without justification and showing your work **will not receive any credit**, regardless of the “correctness” of the answer. It is the responsibility of the student to demonstrate and show that they have learned the course concepts sufficiently. Treat the evaluations as a chance for you to show off everything you have learned!

All assignments, midterms, and final exam will be graded according to a comprehensive marking scheme. If after reviewing posted marking schemes you believe you have earned more credit than was awarded, please send me an email with a brief explanation **within 1 week following the release of solutions.** **If you require an extension for an assignment with valid reasons and documentation, please notify the instructor prior to the due date** to have something arranged.

Homework: Weekly readings, suggested practice problems from the textbook will be provided in the lecture slides for each chapter section covered. In addition, short mock quizzes will be made available on LaunchPad. It is strongly recommended that you attempt as many as possible with and without notes to assess your own understanding of concepts.

Extra Help: I will be holding regular office hours, with extra hours before the midterm and final exam. If you are experiencing difficulty with course content, or have questions related to course material, please come by during the available office hours.

This term we will be using Piazza for class discussion. The system is highly tailored to getting you help quickly and efficiently from your fellow classmates, TAs, and myself. Rather than emailing questions to the teaching team, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza and any work or steps you have attempted for detailed feedback!

If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com. Find our class page [here](#). Use of Piazza is **entirely optional** and students who choose to use it should read the Privacy Policy agreement and post only what they are comfortable sharing as stated in the agreement.

Course Conduct:

- **Email:** Any administrative questions or regrade requests can be addressed to me. Questions regarding course material and concepts should be asked during office hours or on Piazza only. If those times do not work for you, please arrange an appointment to see me.
- **During Lecture:** Please practice classroom etiquette – arrive on time, devices on silent, save your conversations for later, and most of all, be respectful of your peers. If you anticipate

that you will have to leave early for any reason, please seat yourself so that you may do so without disrupting your fellow peers.

- **Missed Tests:** There are no make-up tests. Any missed tests that are a result of illness requires a [U of T Student Medical Certificate](#) to be completed by you and your doctor within one week of the test. This can be obtained from your college registrar, the Office of the Faculty Registrar (SS1006), the Statistics Department office, or the Koffler health service. The weight of the missed term test will be shifted to the final exam. A missed test without proper documentation will receive a mark of zero.

Accessibility Services:: The University of Toronto provides accommodations through accessibility services to students with diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to reach out to me and/or Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or through email accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. You can find out more information [here](#).

Important Dates:

First Day of Classes	Jan. 4
Last Day to Drop	Mar. 14
Fall Break	Feb. 19-23
Good Friday	Mar. 30
Last Day of Classes	Apr. 4
Exam Period	Apr. 9-30

Academic Integrity: Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matter](#). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

Assignments:

- Using external resources (such as Google) to search for any part or all of any solution to assignment problems. **This includes finding hints and help on starting a problem.**
- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes)
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including
 - working in groups on individual assignments – this includes giving hints to help them get to the answer!
 - having someone rewrite, edit, or add material to your work while editing.
 - researching for inspiration, hints, or answers to any graded problem

- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own with or without your permission

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aids, including a cell phone, smart watch, programmable calculators, notes.
- Looking at someone else's answers or allowing someone to look at yours
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. **If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact the instructor.** If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to the instructor or seek the advice of your college registrar. Note that because of crowding in the classroom, multiple versions of the quizzes and midterm exam may be administered. The differences between versions will be slight and should not affect the difficulty of particular problems.

Tentative Schedule:

Week	Topics
1: Jan. 8-12	Introduction to the course, Ch. 1.1-1.3: Logic and Logical Fallacies
2: Jan. 15-19	Ch. 1.3-1.5: Pictorial Logic, Scales & Rate Comparisons
3: Jan. 22-26	Ch. 2.1-2.3: Analysis of Growth (Numerically, Graphically)
4: Jan. 29- Feb. 2	Ch. 3.1-3.2: Growth by Constant Rate and Constant Percentage
5: Feb. 5-9	Ch. 3.2-3.3: Exponential Growth, Decay, Logarithms and Applications
6: Feb. 12-16	Ch. 4.1-4.2: Personal Finance
7: Feb. 19-23	READING WEEK
8: Feb. 26-Mar. 2	Ch. 4.2-4.4 Personal Finance: Mortgage & Credit Cards
9: Mar. 5-9	Ch. 5.1-5.3: Probabilities & Simple Counting
10: Mar. 12-16	Ch. 5.5: Expected Values & Law of Large Numbers, Ch. 6.1- Data Summary & Presentation
11: Mar. 19-23	Ch. 6.2-6.3 - Bell Curves & Statistics in the News
12: Mar. 26-30	Ch. 6.4 - Statistical Inference
13: Apr. 2-4	Catch-Up/Course Review

