

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICAL SCIENCES**  
**STA199H1 (Statistical Evidence: Truth or Myth?), Fall 2021**

All listed times in this document are in local Toronto time. If you are in a different time zone, you are responsible for any time conversions.

## 1 COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Syllabus:** This course explores the impact Statistics has made and continues to make on everyday life through science, law, and the modern methods for information processing. Statistical principles will be illustrated using examples from real life including business, romance and health. Restricted to first-year students. Not eligible for CR/NCR option.

Important announcements and other course information will be posted on the course web page on Quercus. It is an online platform to learn this course effectively.

**Breadth Requirements:** The Physical and Mathematical Universes (5)

## 2 COURSE SCHEDULE

We will use the scheduled lecture times Wednesdays 10am-12 noon for live discussion sessions.

## 3 INSTRUCTOR

Selvakkadunko Selvaratnam (Selva)

Email: selva.selvaratnam@utoronto.ca

PhD in Statistics, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Assistant Professor(teaching stream), Department of Statistical Sciences, University of Toronto.

## 4 OFFICE HOURS:

Will be posted on Quercus, held on Microsoft Teams and the link will be available on Quercus.

## 5 READING

We will use a number of articles from newspapers, internet, scientific journals to discuss and analyze statistical ideas for every day life. In addition, we will use the following book:

- (1) Seeing Through Statistics, 2014, by Jessica Utts (4th edition)

It is not required to buy. Two copies are available at the Mathematical Sciences Library.

## 6 COURSE STRUCTURE

**Quercus Page:** All lecture slides and other course materials will be posted on Quercus under Modules. Course materials provided on Quercus are for the use of students currently enrolled in this course only. **Distributing course materials to anyone outside of the course is considered unauthorized use.**

## 7 EVALUATION

The course mark will be computed based on the following method,

Types	Weight of total marks	Date
Class participation 1	$(4\% \times 5(\text{full}) =)20\%$	Before October 21
Class participation 2	$(4\% \times 5(\text{full}) =)20\%$	After October 21
Presentation	30%	November 24, December 1, December 8
Essay	30%	December 15

## 8 IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of Classes	September 9
Fall Reading Week	November 8 - 12
Last Day of Classes	December 8
Final Exam Periods	December 10 - 21

## 9 COURSE CONDUCT

- **Email:** Any questions regarding the course can be addressed by me via email (selva.selvaratnam@utoronto.ca). You should include the text **STA199** in the subject.

All students are given a UToronto email address. This email address is available to the course instructor who may distribute relevant course information or announcements via email. The University regularly communicates with students via email. Check your UToronto email regularly or forward it to an email address that you check regularly. If you use email to communicate with your instructor, you must use your UToronto account. This is to protect your privacy: if a non-UToronto account is used, there is no way for the instructor to verify the identity of the sender.

- **Recording and/or Distribution of Course Materials:** Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, tutorials, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

## 10 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 Accessibility Services at 416-978-8060 or through [accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://accessibility.utoronto.ca).