

Syllabus for STA199H1-S: Statistical Evidence: Truth or Myth?

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Description:

If you wonder why Google's Chief Economist wrote "I keep saying the sexy job in the next ten years will be [for] statisticians" or why New York Times has prominently displayed on its first page in August 2009 the article "For Today's Graduate, Just One Word: Statistics" then this course will offer a possible answer. It 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.

Marking:

- 30% of the mark is based on class participation (15% will be given before March 15th which is based on the class participation of the first half of the semester).
- 30% of the mark is based on an essay. Due: March 31st in class.
- 40% of the mark is based on in-class presentation summarizing the topic and the findings of the essay.

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 two books:

- “Seeing through Statistics” by Jessica Utts
- “Struck by Lightning” by Jeffrey Rosenthal

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