STA 201F: Why Numbers Matter (Fall, 2015)

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.

Instructor: Professor Jeffrey Rosenthal, Department of Statistics, University of Toronto. Sidney Smith Hall, room 5016B; phone 416-978-4594; http://probability.ca/jeff/; jeff@math.toronto.edu

Time and Location: Mondays 2:10 - 3:00 and Wednesdays 1:10 - 3:00, in LM 161. First class Sept 14. Last class Dec 7. No class Oct 12 (Thanksgiving) nor Nov 9 (Fall Break). Final exam some time during December 11-22; date and location TBA.

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

Evaluation (tentative):
12% *iClicker* class participation (thoughout the term);
22% Term test #1 (on Oct 21 during class time; in EX 200);
22% Term test #2 (on Nov 18 during class time; in EX 300 and 310);
44% Final exam (some time during December 11-22; date and location TBA).

Note: Students should obtain an *iClicker* device, available for purchase from the University of Toronto bookstore, and **bring it to every class**. Then, by Monday Sept 28, they should **register it** online by following the instructions given in class.

Textbook: None. The course instructor will post summary lecture notes on the course's Blackboard page -- but they are *not* a substitute for attending and actively learning from the course lectures. Students wanting additional background reading can optionally consult the instructor's somewhat-related book Struck by Lightning.

More Information: See the course's Blackboard web page.

This document is available at www.probability.ca/sta201 or permanently at www.probability.ca/jeff/teaching/1516/sta201/