First Day Info

Math 115
Reasoning with Data: Quantitative Methods for Society

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This course will focus on reasoning with data.

We will use math, statistics, and data to address societal problems and make personal decisions.

We will answer questions like:

• How can we tell if gerrymandering has occurred?
• What fraction of the population would need to be vaccinated to control coronavirus outbreaks?
• From a financial perspective, is it worthwhile to go to law school?
We will use math and stats in the following four contexts:

1. Elections
2. Finance
3. Health and risk
4. Art and literature
We will use the following tools for this class

- Sakai – the go to place for course info and assignments
- Gradescope – for submitting homework
- Poll Everywhere – for answering questions in class
- Piazza – online forum for question about homework and classwork
- Google spreadsheets – for analyzing data
- R studio – for making plots and doing fancier data analysis
- Tableau – for making plots and infographs
- New York Times and other media - for intro articles

You are not expected to know how to use any of these in advance!
Class Structure

Before class
- Check Sakai Lessons tab for instructions
- Read article and / or watch short video
- Do short before-class assignment via Sakai or PollEv (TBD)

During Class
- Mini-lectures
- Students work in groups
- Students answer questions using PollEverywhere
- Individual / Group Quiz every 2 or 3 weeks on Wednesdays

After class
- Homework will be assigned on Sakai after every class, due on Tuesdays via Gradescope
- Office Hours
- Piazza
Help

- In class help from instructor, TAs, and ULAs
- Math tutoring center (free, in Phillips 237, open M – F)
- Dey Hall tutoring, open Tues, Wed evenings
- The Learning Center on campus
- List of private tutors available at math office
- Office hours – see Piazza for updates
- Peers
Honor Code

For homework, in-class problems, and before-class assignments

- Collaboration with other students is welcome
- Collaboration should benefit the learning of all involved
- Copying or trading answers is a violation of the honor code

For in-class quizzes

- Collaboration is not allowed on individual parts, is allowed within groups on group parts
- Closed book and notes unless otherwise specified
- Computers / calculators may or may not be allowed.

If in doubt about what is permitted on an assignment, please ask!
Grades

- 10% Participation (PollEv in class, surveys and pre-test)
- 10% Before class assignments
- 30% Weekly homework assignments
- 30% Quizzes and post-test
- 20% Final Project
Up Next:

- Tour of Sakai (as time permits) / Practice PollEverywhere: What is your major or what might it be? (free response)
- Pre-test (participation grade only)

For next class:

- Check Sakai under today’s date for homework
- Check Sakai under Friday’s date for what to do for next class (video plus pre-class assignment)