The Required Textbook

The required textbook is *Statistcs* by Freedman, Pisani, & Purves, fourth edition:

(For hardcover edition) ISBN 0-393-92972-8 or (13 digit ISBN) 13-978-0-393-92972-0

For soft cover International edition: ISBN 0393930432 or (13 digit ISBN) 13: 9780393930436

Please obtain this textbook as it is important to read it before every class. There's an electronic version of it on amazon.com.

The Course Web Site

My web site is at

www.cs.umb.edu/~skovitz/math125. That's a tilde without a space and skovitz.

It is very important, so make sure you can get to this web page. If not see me immediately for instructions. The entire course will be posted there—also the syllabus and schedule and the tutors' schedules.

I only use Canvas to connect with WeBWorK, the on-line assignments. The primary Homework will be the 17 assignments I post on line. The WeBWorK homework will count as the course grade if it is higher than the written homeworks. Only one or the other will be used; you cannot combine some WeBWorK with some written. But, in any case, do both. WeBWorK will provide great practice.

Diagnostic Tests

It is assumed that you have proficiency in basic and college algebra. A take-home diagnostic test on algebra will be distributed in class, Monday, January 27. It is due on Wednesday, January 29. If you do poorly or do not turn in the test at all, you should seriously think of dropping the course during the drop and add period by Monday, February 3. Almost all students who cannot do basic arithmetic ultimately fail Math 125. Work these diagnostics only on your own; do not get help from another person or a web solving site. It is not important for the grade in the course, but this diagnostic will assist me in giving you customized advice to help you pass the course. For the Algebra Diagnostic, you are allowed to use a basic calculator and any algebra textbook.

A second diagnostic on logic will be given out during our second class on January 29, and will be due on Friday, January 31. Again, do the work on your own, using only a calculator or any textbook.

WebWorK homeworks will be posted on Canvas. Use them to practice your skills before trying the written homework and the quizzes and tests. Or do at least 10 on time if you want to count them as your course grade.

The first quiz is on Monday, February 24. The first test is on Friday, March 14. Look for practice tests and quizzes and helpful study suggestions under Practice for Quiz or Test on the main web page.

It must be emphasized that "cheating" on the two diagnostic assignments would make no sense: you would only end up unaware of algebra weaknesses—weaknesses that we could work on together to get you up to speed.

Any student not completing the first two assignments will receive an automatic grade of F for the course.

If you do poorly in the algebra diagnostic and receive an email from me, it probably means you will not pass this course. See me as soon as possible, if that is the case. My advice to you must be tailored to your particular circumstances and major.

Tutors will be available, times and rooms to be announced. Please attend. They start right away. Visit the Math Department, Wheatley 03-154 or call 617-287-6460. At the Math Depatment our deignated tutor is Vaishnavi.

There is also CAE tutoring in Healey Librry, 8th floor. Google search 'CAE Tutoring, UMass Boston.'

To save paper, the Math Department will not print the syllabus, etc. Read all on the web site under courseinformation. Also read the emails I send you in your UMass/Boston account.

The web address again is   www.math.umb.edu/~skovitz/math125   (either math or cs will work)

Mr. Kovitz