

## **Welcome To AP Statistics**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

- Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
- Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
- Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
- Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses

I would like to answer a few of the common questions that I typically get about this course. If you have any further questions please feel free to email me or call me.

### **Q: Why should I take statistics?**

A: Statistics is the most widely applicable branch of mathematics. You will never have to wonder when you will ever use this stuff. Statistics is used in math, science, psychology, sociology, anthropology, business, economics, political science, government, law and medicine. There is a good chance that your career choice will fall in here somewhere.

### **Q: Will there be summer course work?**

A: There will be a summer assignment. You can tentatively plan on being ready to come back at the beginning of next semester and test over chapters one and two. We have a lot of material to cover in a year and we need to maximize the time spent in class.

### **Q: Is this easier than AP Calc?**

A: Mathematically, this course only has a pre-requisite of Algebra 2. However, the course is not easier, it is just different. This course should be considered more of a humanities course rather than a math course. This course has a lot more reading, writing, explaining, and analyzing than a traditional math class. All of the math that you see in AP Statistics will be very different than any other math you have seen before. There will be definitions and formulas that you will need to understand and be comfortable using. If you tend to pick up new concepts easily and are willing to study hard, this course is a good choice.

### **Q: Can I take the course without taking the AP exam at the end of the year?**

A: Any student who signs up for AP statistics will be required to take the AP exam at the end of the year.

**Q: What if I am involved in outside activities and I miss a lot of class.**

A: It is extremely difficult to miss this class. We will cover 15 chapters in the course of the year. That averages out to about one chapter every two weeks. Therefore, if you miss 2 or 3 days in a row, you have missed most of the chapter. Even if you have always been a good student, it will be very difficult for you to teach yourself the material you are missing if you are not in class. Missing class will be detrimental to your success of this class. There is not time for the class to slow down in this course if YOU fall behind.

**Q: What does the course load for this class look like?**

A: You will have homework every night. You can also expect to use time outside of class working on projects. You will have one project per chapter. There will be quizzes in every chapter as well as a chapter exam, midterms and finals.

**Q: Will I still have to take a final at the end of the year, even after I have already taken my AP exam?**

A: Yes!

Having said all of this, I love AP statistics. The course is fast paced and engaging. Statistics are everywhere. I encourage you to open any newspaper and look at all the articles quoting statistics, or listen to all the companies making claims about their products. You will begin to understand how to test these claims and also to look at statistics with a much more skeptical eye than before. Be prepared to work hard, have fun and learn a lot.

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**When you return from summer break, you should be EXTREMELY familiar with Chapters One and Two. Chapters One and Two cover pages 1-63. You should read all of the sections. You need to make sure that you know and understand all the new vocabulary terms from the two chapters. You will have a vocabulary test when you return. Along with a vocabulary/definition test when you return, you will also need to turn in the following assignments from chapters One and Two.**

- **Section 1.3, pg 11: 1-9**
- **Section 1.4, pg 19: 10-19**
- **Section 2.1, pg 31: 1-9**
- **Section 2.2, pg 40: 10-25**
- **Section 2.3, pg 49: 31-39**
- **Section 2.4, pg 54: 40-50**

**If you do not have a solid foundation of all the new vocabulary being introduced in Statistics, you will struggle all year long in this class. Please take this seriously and be prepared when you return back to school in the fall.**