

The Heroes of Olympus: Students of Statistics



Camp Director (Instructor): Tessa Benson-Greenwald, PhD

E-mail Address: tmb5360@psu.edu

Student/Office Hours via [Zoom](#):

Mondays 10-11:30AM

Thursdays 1-2:30pm

Or by appointment

The Prophecy of Stats

Student of Stats, a journey awaits

This mythical quest, your nerves abate

From Half-Blood and Jupiter, Campers compete

Learning the lore of stats, Becoming elite

Your Time At Camp

Over the semester, you will embark on a magical journey as a demigod at Camps Half-Blood or Jupiter. During this time you will learn the ups, downs, ins, and outs of statistical techniques!

Goals of a Demigod Education (in Statistics)

Many students think of PSYCH 200 as a math course – leading to lots of anxiety and concerns about whether or not they can do well in this class. First, every single student is capable of doing well in this class with some hard work and effort. The best way to succeed is to ask questions early and often. I am here to help you understand but we can only address questions when we know that they are there. I will often check in about what questions you have. However, I also strongly encourage you to ask questions as soon as they come up so I that I can know what you are struggling with.

Second, while it is true that we will perform some calculations, or battle strategies, along the way, this course is NOT about the math. This semester will focus primarily on helping you understand the logic and principles of statistical analyses – working to understand what the numbers do and do not tell you. It will NOT be focused on mindlessly plugging numbers into formulas without knowing why so that you can generate numbers that mean nothing.

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- Select and calculate appropriate descriptive statistics and make visual representations of data
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of sampling randomness and measurement in statistical inference
- Understand population parameters and how to estimate them
- Pick an appropriate statistical technique to test a hypothesis about a particular treatment or experiment
- Explain and interpret p values with respect to the null and alternative hypotheses
- Interpret and manipulate basic statistical notations/formulas. Example formulas will include: mean, variance, standard deviation, calculation of z scores etc.
- Perform a variety of statistical analyses with the appropriate software tools
- Discuss a set of results with respect to real world relevance and suggested next steps
- Identify and critique examples of good and bad statistical reasoning in the popular press

Textbook & Course Materials

We will not be using a textbook for this course. Instead, information will be presented “lecture-style” via videos posted on Canvas. Any readings/notes will also be provided for you on Canvas.

Technology We'll Be Using

For Course Content/Communication

Canvas will be used for most of the actual course content. All lecture videos/recordings of in-class meetings, quizzes, homework assignments etc. will be posted on Canvas. Homework assignments and exams will be turned in via Canvas. **Please do not use the Canvas-based message service.**

Zoom will be used for office hours. My office hours are scheduled Mondays 10-11:30AM and Thursdays 1-2:30PM.

Penn State E-mail will be used for directly communicating with me. I expect you to be checking

your Penn State email account (not just Canvas messages) no less than once a day. I will send frequent messages to the class with announcement, clarifications, instructions and/or updates. You are responsible for the content of these messages exactly as if the material had been presented in class. Saying "I didn't read the e-mail" or "I haven't checked my e-mail for a few days will not be considered a valid excuse for missing information. All class-wide messages will be sent using the Canvas Announcement tool, so archived messages can always be found on the Canvas sites.

Slack will be used to provide a more informal communication network and to build community amongst the class (and particularly amongst your Camp Team). The system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates and myself. Rather than e-mailing questions to me, I encourage you to post your questions on Slack. There are a variety of channels currently set up including: private channels for both camps, a general question channel (Camp_general), homework question channel, and a technology question channel. Requests for additional channels are welcome.

For Statistical Analysis

Excel will be used in the first 4 weeks for some introductory statistical calculations such as: Central Tendency, Variability + Standard Deviation, Histograms etc. Workshops using Excel will be conducted using a Windows computer (because that is what I have). Mac-based Excel should work pretty similarly. Google Sheets may have some irregularities. When possible, tutorials for Mac-based Excel and Google Sheets will be posted.

Web Applets will be used to get a hands-on understanding of the underlying principals of models and model evaluation. The links to these applets will be provided.

JASP will be used to analyze sets of data using a variety of statistical tests such as t-tests, ANOVAs, and correlations. We will not start using JASP until _____ but when we do, you will either need to access JASP through the campus computers (in libraries/computer labs) or JASP will need to be installed onto your computer or laptop. To do so, you can visit the [JASP website](#) and then click the "Download JASP" button that is on the front page. That link will take you to a download page where you can pick a Windows, Mac, or Linux version depending on what you are running. I will put out an announcement a week before we need this to remind you to download it and with more information/resources.

Course Format

Your time at Camp will be spent engaging with a variety of different quests designed to give you a hands-on experience to grow your understanding of statistics. Traditionally, demigod training involves exploring and learning about the theory behind magic, monsters, and deities as well as developing a mastery of battle strategies. As we will be learning about the battle strategy of statistics, we will follow in this tradition.

Camps and the Camp Competition

You will be sorted as a camper into either Camp Half-Blood (Greek mythology) or Camp Jupiter (Roman mythology). These camps will serve 2 main purposes.

Community. Having a smaller subset of students with whom you can communicate about assignments and ask questions will hopefully foster some sense of connection with your classmates. You may discuss

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exams (which are open-book/classmate) with your campmates as long as your work and the answers you submit are your own (more below under Exams).

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Camp Competition. Each week, at least 1 optional Quest Competition Activity will be posted that will give you additional engagement with the course material. These may take the form of review quizzes/activities, submitting questions for topics to review, or reading an excerpt from an actual article (journal or popular press) etc. These activities will be posted with the lecture videos (see below) each week **on Sunday and will be “due” by 11:59PM ET (PA time) on the following Monday.** For example, if a House Cup Activity is posted on 01/15 it will be “due” by Monday 1/23 @ 11:59PM. Although these activities are completely optional, completing them **will benefit both you AND your Camp.**

Every time you complete a Quest Competition Activity it counts toward **your Camp’s point total.** Camp point totals will be aggregated across campers every 2 weeks and the current rankings will be posted. At the end of the semester, bonus course points will be awarded to each camp as follows: 1st Place – 4 Bonus points, 2nd Place – 2 Bonus points. That is, all campers in the 1st place camp will receive 4 bonus points added to their final course grade (and so on).

Lectures Videos & Lecture Participation

In lieu of a textbook, information will be presented as **pre-recorded lecture videos via Canvas.** Two lecture sets will be posted each week on Sunday (barring any unforeseeable circumstances). You are expected to watch these videos each week prior to coming to class on. Along with the videos, **short lecture participation quizzes** will be posted on Canvas. The quiz questions will be similar to the questions posed in the videos and all answers will be available in the lecture materials. You must complete these by **11:59PM ET (PA Time) on Wednesday. Your score on these quizzes will make up your lecture participation score.**

Each student will have their **four lowest lecture participation scores dropped.** Because each student gets four dropped scores, I do not make a distinction between excused and unexcused missed quizzes. If you miss due to illness, oversleeping, travel, emergency, or do not complete a lecture participation quiz for any reason, participation for that lecture quiz will be recorded as a zero.

Students who need accommodations for observance of religious holidays must contact me as indicated in the [academic bulletin](#). All requests for accommodations must be made before Friday, February 17th.

Workshops and Workshop Participation

In addition to recorded lecture videos, each week I will post workshop videos that work through the software-based techniques/performing statistical techniques. **These workshop videos will be crucial for being able to complete the homework assignments for a given week.** Along with the videos, **short workshop participation quizzes** will be posted on Canvas. The quiz questions will be similar to questions posed in the videos and all answers will be available in the workshop materials. You must complete these by **11:59PM ET (PA time) on Sunday. Your completion of these questions will make up your workshop participation credit.**

There will be **13 of these Workshops (and quizzes)** and each student will have their **three (3) lowest workshop participation score dropped.** As with the lecture participation, there is no distinction between excused/unexcused misses of workshop participation quizzes. If you miss a workshop quiz for any reason, participation for that workshop will be recorded as a zero.

Homework Assignments

Homework assignments will be made available via Canvas at the same time as all other course materials (e.g., lectures and quizzes) for the week and **will be due by 11:59PM (PA time) on Wednesday** of the

following week. Although you can and *should* work with your classmates to complete these assignments, **each student will submit their own Homework Assignment and answers should be in your own words.**

There will be 13 homework assignments and each student will have their three lowest homework assignments dropped. **Students planning to use a drachma to turn a homework assignment in late will need to contact me by 5:00PM ET (PA time) on Thursday, the day after the assignment was due (no exceptions). Assignments turned in late with a drachma will be accepted NO LATER than one full week after the original deadline (no exceptions). Late homework assignments will not be accepted without a drachma and/or if e-mails requesting to use a drachma are received after 5:00PM ET (PA time) on the due date of a particular assignment.**

Exams

There will be two sets of battles or exams throughout your time at Camp, the **Battle with Kronos** and the **Battle with Gaea**. The Battle with Kronos (Exam 1) will begin (open) on **Monday February 20th at 7:00AM and close on Sunday 2/26 at 11:59PM (PA time)**, the Battle with Gaea (Exam 2) will begin on **Wednesday April 26th at 7:00AM and close on Wednesday May 3rd at 11:59PM (PA time)**. Each exam will cover and test 1) your understanding of the conceptual basis of statistics and 2) your mastery of the concepts you have learned by analyzing new sets of data using the software and tools we have studied. Exams are open-book and you are free to discuss the content and concepts with your classmates/campmates, **but you must do your own work and the answers you submit must be your own**. Each exam will focus primarily on the new material learned since the previous exam, but questions about older material may be included as well. There will not be a "final" examination for this class.

If you have a scheduling conflict that will interfere with turning in a homework assignment or taking an exam at the scheduled time, you must let me know as soon as possible. With the exception of extreme and unforeseen circumstances, contacting me the exam is due will result in a zero on the work.

Drachmas

Completion of Quest Competition Activities will help you (as an individual) earn Drachmas. Completing 3 Quest Competition Activities will earn you 1 drachma and you can earn up to 4 drachmas over the course of the semester. To redeem drachmas, you must email Me. Drachmas can be redeemed for:

- Turning in 1 Homework Assignment late (1 drachma)
 - o **Please note: Students planning to use a drachma to turn a homework assignment in late will need to contact me by 5:00PM ET (PA time) on Thursday, the day after the assignment was due (no exceptions). Drachma redemption requests received after that time will not be granted. Assignments turned in late with a drachma will be accepted NO LATER than one full week after the original deadline (no exceptions). Up to 2 drachmas total (2 homework assignments) may be redeemed over the course of the semester.**
- Turning in 1 Lecture Participation Quiz late (1 drachma)
 - o **Please note: Students planning to use a drachma to turn a homework assignment in late will need to contact me by 5:00PM ET (PA time) on Thursday, the day after the quiz was due (no exceptions). Drachma redemption requests received after that time will not be granted. Quizzes turned in late with a drachma will be accepted NO LATER than one full week after the original deadline (no exceptions).**
- Granting 1 bonus point on 1 Lecture Participation quiz (1 drachma)

- **Please note: When emailing to redeem a drachma for bonus points, please indicate *which* lecture participation quiz you would like to use it on. Requests to use a drachma to be granted 2 bonus points on a lecture participation quiz must be submitted by Wednesday May 3 @ 5:00PM. No exceptions.**
- Granting 2 bonus points on 1 homework assignment (1 drachma)
 - **Please note: When emailing to redeem a drachma for bonus points, please indicate *which* homework assignment you would like to use it on. Requests to use a drachma to be granted 2 bonus points on a homework assignment must be submitted by Wednesday May 3 @ 5:00PM. No exceptions.**
- Granting 2 bonus points on 1 Exam (2 drachmas)
 - **Please note: Requests to use drachmas to receive 2 bonus points on either exam must be submitted by Wednesday May 3 @ 5:00PM. No exceptions. Only 2 drachmas (1 exam granted 2 bonus points) may be redeemed over the course of the semester.**

Your final grade is based on your total points earned divided by the total points available in the class. A summary breakdown of the point allotment per assignment group etc. is given in the below table.

Assignment Type	# offered	# dropped	Points Per Assignment	Total Points
Lecture Participation	24	4	20	400
Workshop Participation	13	3	20	200
Homework	13	3	50	500
Exams (Kronos & Gaea Battles)	2	0	200	400
Course Total	-	-	-	1500

Grading Scale

A: 1395 - 1500 pts	A-: 1350 - 1394.99 pts	B+: 1305 – 1349.99 pts
B: 1245 – 1304.99 pts	B-: 1200 – 1244.99 pts	C+: 1155 – 1199.99 pts
C: 1050 – 1154.99 pts	D: 900-1049.99 pts	F: Below 900 pts

**** Requests for rounding of final grades will be ignored.**

Student Responsibility

It is your responsibility to double-check your assignment and exam grades – both that the papers themselves were correctly graded and that the scores posted on Canvas match your actual grades. You have two weeks from the time an assignment is returned to the class to address any grading issues. After that, the grades posted on Canvas will be considered final.

Feedback

Do not wait until the end of the semester course evaluations to let me know that I could be doing something better. Tell me as soon as possible so that I can make the class valuable and relevant as we go along. If you have any feedback, good or bad, about the course or how it's being taught, please feel

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free to send it to me *anonymously* using [this link](#). The feedback goes directly to my PSU email address and your name is not associated with it in any way.

Extra Credit?

Beyond bonus points that will be awarded through the Camp Competition and redemption of drachmas, one or two extra credit assignments may be provided to the class throughout the semester at the discretion of the instructor. **Individual requests for extra credit assignments will be ignored. Any extra credit opportunities that are made available will be made available to the entire class.**

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity is a basic guiding principle for all academic activity at The Pennsylvania State University, and all members of the University community are expected to act in accordance with this principle. Consistent with this expectation, the University's Code of Conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Academic integrity includes a commitment by all members of the University community not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

Class Recordings

As mentioned, lecture and workshop recordings will be posted to Canvas. You may watch any of the recordings online or download them for off-line viewing on your computer, smartphone, or media player. These recordings are copyrighted by me and provided by me and the University for your personal use. You may not share them, in whole or in part, without my prior written permission. Please see the copyright statement below for the full terms of use.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Penn State welcomes students with disabilities into the University's educational programs. At Penn State Abington, services for students with documented disabilities are provided through the Office of Student Disability Resources, 223 Sutherland Bldg., 215-881-7962). In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, ADA law requires the student themselves to self-disclose the need for accommodations. This can be done through SDR's online questionnaire: equity.psu.edu/sdr/applying-for-services/intro or by emailing AbingtonSDR@psu.edu. SDR will then follow up with information regarding next steps to determine eligibility: submitting diagnostic documentation and participating in an intake interview.

SDR will provide the student with an accommodation letter for the semester if the student meets eligibility requirements. It is the student's responsibility to share their letter and discuss accommodations with instructors as early in their courses as possible. Instructors are not required to provide accommodations until the letter is presented and discussed. Students must follow this process for each semester they wish to receive accommodations. Please visit abington.psu.edu/disability-services and equity.psu.edu/sdr for comprehensive information. Please email AbingtonSDR@psu.edu with questions or to schedule an appointment.

Sexual Misconduct and Title IX Policy

The university's code of conduct states that all students should act with personal integrity, respect other

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students' dignity, rights, and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Violations of this principle can result in a range of sanctions, from a warning to expulsion. Note that Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc.

Sexual harassment of faculty, staff or students is prohibited and will not be tolerated. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of sexual harassment. Sexual harassment violates the dignity of individuals and impedes the realization of the University's educational mission. The University is committed to preventing and eliminating sexual harassment of faculty, staff, and students through education and by encouraging faculty, staff, and students to report any concerns or complaints about sexual harassment. Prompt corrective measures will be taken to stop sexual harassment whenever and wherever it occurs. See Policy AD-85-Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Related Inappropriate Conduct.

Please contact our sexual harassment liaison:

Michele Scott, RN, BSN, Campus Nurse, 103 Lares, 215-881-7350, mus959@psu.edu

You may also seek out the campus psychologist (Dr. Karen Gould, 215-881-7577, ksg17@psu.edu); or stop by the Wellness Center in 103 Lares any time. You can call PSU's Sexual Assault & Relationship Violence Hotline (800-550-7575) or the Victim Services Center of Montgomery County's 24-hour crisis hotline (888-521-0983).

If this is a Title IX issue, please contact Penn State Abington's Title IX Resource Person for more Information: Gina D'Amato-Kaufman, Director of Student Affairs, 106 Sutherland Building, gd22@psu.edu, (215) 881-7391

Reporting Educational Equity Concerns through the Report Bias Site

Penn State takes great pride to foster a diverse and inclusive environment for students, faculty, and staff. Acts of intolerance, discrimination, or harassment due to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation, or veteran status are not tolerated and can be reported through Educational Equity via the Report Bias webpage (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>).

Information on available Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional wellbeing. If you encounter personal problems of any kind on or off campus, please reach out for help. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation. On campus counseling and psychological services are available on the first floor of the Cloverly Building. Please contact our campus psychologist Dr. Karen Gould, 215-881-7577, ksg17@psu.edu; Jennifer Donovan, MSW, 215-881-7956 or stop by the Wellness Center in 103 Lares any time.

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Center for Student Achievement (CSA)

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The Center for Student Achievement, located in 315 Sutherland, offers Free Tutoring, Writing Consultations, and Success Coaching to all students. Scheduling appointments in advance is strongly recommended and can be made through Starfish. Additional subject tutoring is offered through our online tutoring platform, Brainfuse, which can be accessed by visiting abington.psu.edu/achievement. The CSA also offers workshops that strengthen students' abilities to study, write, manage time, make decisions, and achieve goals. To reach us, please email achieve-ab@psu.edu or stop by 315 Sutherland for assistance!

Office of Global Programs

Office of Global Programs: provides academic support, visa advising, engagement and leadership opportunities to all international students. International students that need support should contact our office by email ab-globalprograms@psu.edu or call us at 215-881-7477. All students should contact Office of Global Programs for study abroad opportunities as well as how to make a trip fit in your academic plan and scholarships to pay for your trip. Applications are due one year ahead, please contact our office for more information by email ab-globalprograms@psu.edu or call us at 215-881-7477.

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This is an Inclusive Course

In our PSYCH200 course, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship status, nationality, and other diverse identities that we each bring to class.

DISCLAIMERS

1) This syllabus is an outline of the course and its policies, which may be changed for reasonable purposes during the semester at the instructor's discretion. You will be notified in class and/or via email if any changes are made to this syllabus, and an updated syllabus will be provided on Canvas.

Camp Schedule

Week			Description	LPQ Due	HW Due
1	Lecture Videos: Introduction/Syllabus, Levels of Measurement; Workshop: Levels of Measurement				
	M	Jan 9	Introductions/Syllabus		
	W	Jan 11	Levels of Measurement	#1+2	#1
2	Lecture Videos: Levels of Measurement + Histograms				
	M	Jan 16	MLK JR. Day – No Classes/no assignments due		
	T	Jan 17	Levels of Measurement (review)		
	W	Jan 18	Histograms	#3	#2
F	Jan 20	Workshop – Basics of Excel			
3	Lecture Videos: Central Tendency + Variability				
	M	Jan 23	Central Tendency		
	W	Jan 25	Variability	#4+5	#3
	F	Jan 27	Workshop – Excel: Central Tendency, Variability,		
4	Lecture Videos: Normal Distributions + Z Scores				
	M	Jan 30	Normal Distributions		
	W	Feb 1	Z Scores	#6+7	#4
	F	Feb 3	Workshop – Excel: Plots + Z-Scores		
5	Lecture: Models & Model Evaluation				
	M	Feb 6	Model Evaluation 1		
	W	Feb 8	Model Evaluation 2	#8+9	#5
	F	Feb 10	Workshop - Simulator: Evaluating Models		
6	Lecture Review: Levels of Measurement through Model Evaluation				
	M	Feb 13	Lecture Videos (Review)		
	W	Feb 15		#10	#6
	F	Feb 17	Workshop – Review of Excel and Simulators		
7	No Lecture Videos – Exam 1 (Battle with Kronos)				
	Exam opens @ 7:00AM on Monday 2/20 and is due by Sunday 2/26 @ 11:59PM (PA time)				
8	Lecture Videos: The Null Model and p-values				
	M	Feb 27	The Null Model		
	W	Mar 1	P-Values	#11+12	
	F	Mar 3	Workshop - Simulator: Coins, Matching, p-values		
SPRING BREAK – No lecture videos/LPQs/HW! 3/6-3/10					
9	Lecture Videos: Statistical Significance				
	M	Mar 13	Statistical Significance 1		
	W	Mar 15	Statistical Significance 2	#13+14	#7
	F	Mar 17	Workshop – Simulator: p-values and Statistical Significance		
10	Lecture Videos: t-tests, Confidence Intervals (CIs), Effect Size				
	M	Mar 20	Review Model Evaluation and Null Model		
	W	Mar 22	Review p-values and statistical Significance	#15	#8
	F	Mar 24	Workshop – Simulator Review: Model Evaluation – Stat Sig		

11	Lecture Videos: ANOVAs				
	M	Mar 27	t-tests 1		
	W	Mar 29	t-tests 2 + CIs/effect size	#16+17	#9
	M	Mar 31	Workshop - JASP: Basics, t-tests, CIs, Effect Size		
12	Lecture Videos: Choosing the Right Test				
	M	Apr 3	ANOVAs 1		
	W	Apr 5	ANOVAs 2	#18+19	#10
	F	Apr 7	Workshop – JASP: ANOVA		
13	Lecture Videos: Correlations				
	M	Apr 10	Choosing the Right Test 1		
	W	Apr 12	Choosing the Right Test 2	#20+21	#11
	F	Apr 14	Workshop – JASP: Choosing the Right Test		
14	Lecture Review: t-tests through Correlations				
	M	Apr 17	Correlations 1		
	W	Apr 19	Correlations 2	#22+23	#12
	F	Apr 21	Workshop - JASP: Correlations		
15	Lecture Review: t-tests through Correlations				
	M	Apr 24	t-tests through Correlations		
	W	Apr 26	JASP Review: t-tests through Correlations	#24	#13
	F	Apr 28	Battle With Gaea (Exam 2) Review		
Finals Week	No Lecture Videos - Battle with Gaea (Exam 2)				
	Exam opens @ 7:00AM on Wednesday 4/26 and is due by Wednesday 5/3 @ 11:59PM (PA Time)				
	W	May 3	Final day to redeem drachmas; must e-mail by 5:00pm (PA time)		