



PUB – POS 316 Week 1

Overview

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Last updated – Jan 1, 10



Introductory Lecture

- A Policy Concern:
 - We want to help homeless people.
- An important question:
 - How many homeless people are in the capital district?
- Why do you think this question is important?



Introductory Lecture

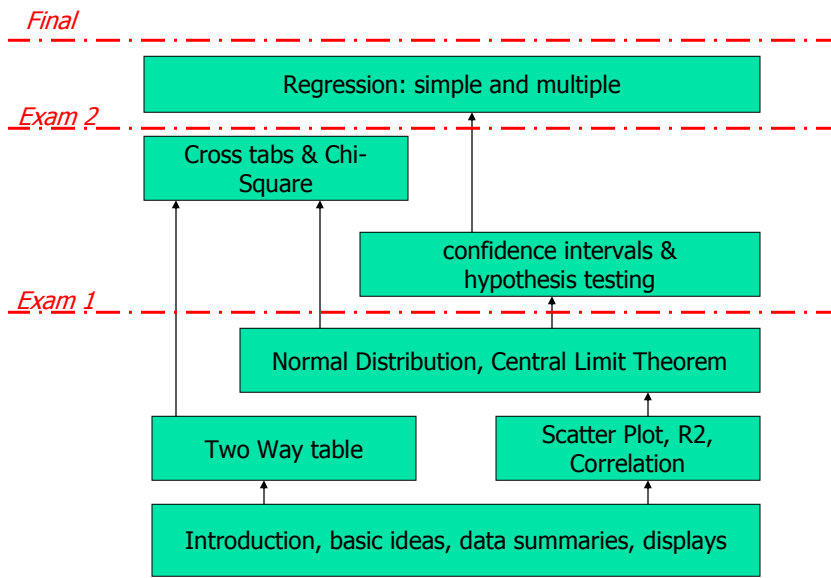
- How many homeless people are in the capital district?
- How can we answer this question?
- What other questions should we answer to help homeless people?



Introductory Lecture

- Statistics is the branch of mathematics that transforms data into useful information for decision makers.
- It involves:
 - Collecting data
 - Presenting & Describing data
 - Analyzing and interpreting data

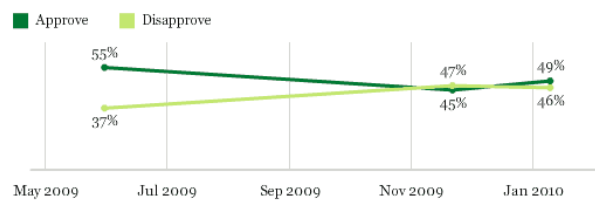
Course Road Map



Example

- Obama Approval on Terrorism Up to 49%
- <http://www.gallup.com/poll/125033/Obama-Approval-Terrorism-Up-49.aspx>

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling terrorism?



USA Today/Gallup, Jan. 8-10, 2010

GALLUP



Example

"Survey Methods

- Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,023 national adults, aged 18 and older, conducted Jan. 8-10, 2010. For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points.
- Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).
- In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls."
- What do we get from this paragraph?



Overview of the class

Course Material:

- Moore, McCabe & Craig, *Introduction to the Practice of Statistics* (sixth edition)
- PowerPoint Slides
- Syllabus, Assignments, Cases, Datasets, etc. available at <http://www.navidg.com/pub316.htm> or
- <http://www.navidg.com>
- Office hour:
- Instructor (Navid): Downtown Campus, Milne 316, Mondays and Wednesdays 4-6 PM (by appointment)
- TA (Junesoo): Uptown Campus, Humanities building, room# 016, Fridays 1:30-2:30



Overview of the class

- Assignments: weekly
 - You can work in pairs (I suggest)
 - Submit it individually
 - On time
- 2 Cases
 - Total of 5 days delay is accepted.
- 3 exams



Overview of the class

- Grading:
 - Exam 1: 15%
 - Exam 2: 15%
 - Final exam: 20%
 - Case 1: 10%
 - Case 2: 10%
 - Assignments: 20% (on time)
 - Instructor Judgment: 10%



Overview of the class

- Final Grade:
 - 90-100 A (90-92 A-, 92-100 A)
 - 80-90 B (80-82 B-, 83-87 B, 88-89 B+)
 - 70-80 C (70-72 C-, 73-77 C, 78-79 C+)
 - 60-70 D (60-62 D-, 63-67 B, 68-69 D+)
 - Below 60 F



Overview of the class

- Work with website
 - <http://navidg.com/teaching.htm>