

Why Should I Choose STSCI 2150 for Introductory Statistics?

STSCI 2150, Introductory Statistics for Biology

Instructor: Dr. Melissa Smith

Class time: MWF 2:30 to 3:20

This course is designed for undergraduate biology majors, but can be taken by anyone in the Cornell community.

I (Melissa Smith) am the instructor for the course; I teach it during both the fall and spring semesters.

In this course, we cover all of the main topics in introductory statistics, e.g. populations and sampling, numerical methods for summarizing and describing data, hypothesis testing, and linear regression. The course emphasizes concepts (over calculations) and uses examples from medicine, agriculture, genetics and nutrition for illustration.

The course is offered during the MWF 2:30 to 3:20 time slot. There are weekly computer lab sessions, as well. Calculus is neither required nor used in this course.

One of my main objectives in teaching introductory statistics is to build my students' intuition with regards to statistics and probability. I use numerous examples, an interactive style and several lively class demonstrations to communicate important statistical concepts.

Students' comments from previous semesters:

"This was the perfect class for anyone in biology-related fields. It was an excellent level of difficulty with lots of real-world applicable examples in biology. The lecturer emphasized understanding the material and developing an intuitive sense of statistical analysis which I think is very valuable and better than focusing on memorization. The textbook is great."

"This course left me with real, usable skills and a new interest in statistics."

"The lectures are extremely clear, and the course is a great introduction to statistics for students that have not yet taken it. I sincerely think that this should be a required course for biology undergrads at Cornell, as I have seen too many presentations from fellow Honors candidates who made serious statistics mistakes in their data analysis."

"Great course."