Practical Information

Welcome!!

Let us start by introducing ourselves...

Major news:

- to find the latest course information... → web page for VHM 801:

  `www.stryhnstatistics.ca/vhm801`

- to "connect" yourself to the course (information, discussion...) → log into the Moodle account for VHM 801 (`moodle.upei.ca`),
- to follow the course efficiently → recommended that you decide about a textbook and the statistical software to use pretty soon.

This video: Introduction to course logistics:

- demonstrations of where to find and do stuff,
- main topics: schedule, textbook, software, and marks,
- also a statement of (and reflection on) the course objectives.

Schedule, Course website and Moodle site

Schedule:

- all sessions are planned to be conducted in-person (unless COVID rules change),
- plenty of online material for course → allows you to replace some in-person sessions with work on your own, as needed,
- only the exams (mid-term and final) are mandatory in-person components.

Course webpage/site (`www.stryhnstatistics.ca/vhm801`):

- the primary source of information:

  schedule, lectures, labs (data and solutions), assignments...[1],

- dynamic page/site: continually updated (so check back for updates),

Moodle site for "2022F VHM−8010−01" (should be in your Moodle account)
— mostly for communication and extras,

* Discussion forum: for you to view and participate in discussions (the preferred platform for all questions and discussion),
- links to home assignments (eventually) and other assorted course material,
- (optional) quizzes to confirm and/or improve your understanding,
- (optional) links to recorded sessions from last year.

[1] Also includes links to previous years: allow you to explore assignments and exams ("everything").

Computing Resources for the Course

Calculators:

- traditional learning tool for statistics[2], and handy for quick calculations,
- this course: helpful for exams; a calculator with basic calculus[3] should suffice.

Computers and statistical packages:

- today, we cannot imagine statistics without computers,
  - easier — by avoiding tedious calculations,
    and vastly widens the feasible range of models and analyses,
  - however increases also the risk of errors . . . ,
- the course uses primarily[4] Minitab, but supports Stata and R; all 3 software packages:
  - are well-documented and updated programs, available at UPEI (Stata note[5]),
  - have good graphing facilities, and have both menus and commands,
- you choose between Minitab and others — a trade-off:
  - Minitab (version 21, or earlier): is easier to use through menus,
  - Stata/R: are used in other AVC/UPEI courses, have wider range of statistical methods, but also steeper learning curves.

[2] Based on what historically was available; also, their use may improve understanding of formulas and methods.
[3] Including memory and logarithm etc., possibly also "1-variable statistics".
[4] All demonstrations in lectures and labs will be based on Minitab.
[5] At this point, UPEI does not have a site license for Stata, so personal licenses are needed.

Assignments and Exam for the Course

The course mark is made up by:

- 4 home assignments (two for 10% and two for 15%),
  - tentative dates: 29/9, 13/10, 3/11 and 17/11 (deadlines one week later),
  - will you have "own data" by mid-November (to replace the last assignment by a small project)?
- final exam (50%):
  - tentative date and time: Monday 12/12, 9am-12pm,
  - 3 hours, in-class, open book, no computers (instead: computer listings),
- mid-term exam (optional $\sim$ 15%, deducted from final exam):
  - date: around 27/10, duration: 1 hour, covers Sessions $1-7$,
  - same conditions as final exam $\Rightarrow$ training session.

Past experience with marks and exams in the course:

- as a general rule, students who follow the course seriously should pass the course (minimum 60%) rather easily...,
- typical course marks: average around 80%, range from mid-60s to low 90s.

Why Veterinary Biostatistics VHM 801?

Some possible reasons for your interest:

- mandatory[6], unless you've had "statistics" before,
- statistics is useful (or indispensable) for data analysis, maybe in particular the data analysis you expect to carry out in your graduate program,
- statistics helps to develop a critical sense for data and the results of data analysis,
- this course could be the foundation/building block for more advanced methods,
- maybe you expect statistics to be fun! :-)

Possible scenarios where this may not be the right course for you:

- AVC students with a reasonably solid background in statistics may want to consider obtaining a waiver[7] for the course requirement,
- students unable to participate in most/all in-person sessions may want to consider enrolling in an online introductory statistics course (many exist with similar content) that is specifically designed for online delivery.

[6] UPEI Calendar: "All [AVC] students are expected to complete VHM 801 [...] unless comparable training has been completed prior to entry into the program."

[7] The requirement being waived means that the course is no longer mandatory, but that other courses will have to meet the requirements for credits in the program.