

COURSE INFORMATION SHEET
FALL 2008

1. **Course:** ACTUARIAL SCIENCE 535 -- Mathematics of Demography
Lecture / Time: L01 MWF 11:00 – 11:50
Instructor: David P.M. Scollnik
Office / Email: MS324 scollnik@ucalgary.ca

2. **Prerequisites:** ACSC 327 and MATH 323

NOTE: The Faculty of Science policy on pre- and co-requisite checking is outlined in the current University Calendar (see www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar) *Faculty of Science, section 5C*. **It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they have the pre- and co-requisites for the course, and if they do not they will be withdrawn from the course without notice.**

3. **Fee policy:** After the last day to drop/add courses, there will be no refund of tuition fees if a student withdraws from a course, courses or the session.

4. **Academic Accommodations:** It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. A student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation must register with the Disability Resource Centre to be eligible for formal academic accommodation. DRC registered students are required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

5. **The University policy on grading and related matters** is described in the current University Calendar, *Academic Standings*. In determining the overall grade in the course, the following weights will be used:

Midterm Tests	[2]	50 %
Optional Term Project	[1]	see below
Final Exam		50 %

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is essential to passing the course as a whole. There will be a final examination scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

6. **Missed Components of Term Work.** The regulations of the Faculty of Science pertaining to this matter are outlined in the current University Calendar, *Faculty of Science, section 6A*. It is the student's responsibility to familiarize herself/himself with these regulations.

7. **Academic misconduct** (cheating, plagiarism, or any other form) is a very serious offence that will be dealt with rigorously in all cases. A single offence may lead to disciplinary probation or suspension or expulsion. The Faculty of Science follows a zero tolerance policy regarding dishonesty. Please read the sections of the current University Calendar. See: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/honesty/>

8. **Dates and times of class exercises held outside of class hours (evening tests, Saturday laboratory examinations, weekend field trips, etc.):**

**** THERE WILL BE NO OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME ACTIVITY. ****

REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASSES HAVE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY OUT-OF-CLASS-TIME ACTIVITY. If you have a conflict with any out of class time activity, please inform your instructor at least one week in advance of the activity so that other arrangements may be made for you.

Additional Course Information.

Computing:

There is no significant computing component attached to this course. However, statistical software like Splus or R, mathematical software like Maple, and / or spreadsheet software like Excel, may be used to solve particular problems in the text or from class. This will be further discussed in class.

Evaluation:

There will be 2 tests written in the scheduled lecture / tutorial times.

Test 1: TBA

Test 2: TBA

Term Project:

Students may complete an optional term project. If you complete the project, it will be worth up to 10% of your final course grade (meaning that the final examination and midterm test components of the grade are then worth 45% apiece). NB, your final course grade will be no lower than it would have been had you elected not to complete the project. So it can only help your final course grade, and not hurt it.

The project is to construct a portfolio of newspaper and magazine articles relating to the subject of demography. Any articles relating to demography are acceptable, but local interest stories (i.e., those concerning Calgary and / or Canada) and those describing an actuarial application are especially good. The portfolio will be graded qualitatively on the basis of its size, article diversity, thoroughness, and actuarial relevance.

In addition to the portfolio itself, a student will be required to write a short essay (say, 5 to 15 pages) exploring one or more of the stories in more detail. Your essay might critically review a story, or compare and contrast the viewpoint presented in one article with that in another.

If time permits and if you are interested in doing so, then a classroom presentation of your project may also be arranged. Please speak to me during the term if you are interested in doing a classroom presentation.