

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Welcome!!

Let us start by [introducing ourselves](#)...

[Major news](#):

- to find latest course information... → web page for VHM 801:
`people.upei.ca/hstryhn/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](#): textbook, software, marks, in-class and streaming sessions,
- also a statement of (and reflection on) the [course objectives](#).

COURSE WEBSITE AND MOODLE SITE

Course webpage/site (people.upei.ca/hstryhn/vhm801):

- the **primary source of information**:
 - schedule, lectures, labs (data and solutions), assignments...
- **dynamic page/site**: continually updated (so check back for updates),
- links to **previous years**: allow you to explore assignments and exams (“everything”),
- **hint** to **find** it: bookmark page in web browser, or Google search “VHM 801”,

Moodle site for “2020F VHM–8010–1” (should be in your Moodle account):

- for the individual sessions:
 - * links to participate in streaming sessions (more below),
 - * Discussion forum to view and participate in discussions,
 - * (eventual) links to online quizzes on session material,
- a relevant Discussion forum is the **preferred medium** for all questions and discussion,
- (eventual) links to home assignments and other assorted other course material.

Streaming with **Blackboard Collaborate** software (chosen platform for UPEI courses):

- maybe seek out help/introductory material about the software before start,
- all sessions will be recorded and posted as well.

COMPUTING RESOURCES FOR THE COURSE

Calculators:

- traditional learning tool for statistics¹; handy for in-class labs, but **not essential**.

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 primarily² **Minitab** (version 19) but supports also **Stata** and **R**; all three software packages:
 - * are well-documented and updated programs, available at UPEI (Stata note³),
 - * have good graphing facilities, and have **both menus** and **commands**,
- **you choose** between Minitab and others — a trade-off:
 - * **Minitab**: is easier to use, has better help facilities,
 - * **Stata/R**: are used in other AVC/UPEI courses, have wider range of statistical methods, but also steeper learning curves.

¹ Based on what historically was available; also, their use may improve understanding of formulas and methods.

² All demonstrations in lectures and labs will be based on Minitab.

³ 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** (each for 15%, a total of 60%),
 - * tentative dates: 24/9, 12/10, 5/11 and 19/11 (deadlines one week later),
 - * will you have “own data” by mid-November? (to replace the last assignment by a small project)
- **online quizzes** (20%):
 - * following sessions 2–12,
 - * quizzes to be completed in Moodle on the Wednesday following each session,
 - * available to start anytime during Wednesday, maximal duration: 1 hour,
- **final exam** (20%):
 - * 24-hour take-home exam, starting December 14 at 9am,
 - * covers all sessions and involves practical data analysis using statistical software.

Past experience with marks and exam in the course (in-class version):

- 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:

- mandatory⁴, 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,
- the course could be the foundation/building block for more advanced methods,
- maybe you expect statistics to be fun! :-)

Is anything different with the course being offered in a mostly online version?

- students with a reasonably solid background in statistics may want to consider obtaining a waiver⁵ for the course requirement,
- students unable to participate in any in-class sessions may want to consider enrolling in an online introductory statistics course (many exist with similar content) that is specifically designed for online delivery.

⁴ UPEI Calendar: “All [AVC] students are expected to complete VHM 801 [...] unless comparable training has been completed prior to entry into the program.”

⁵ 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.