

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 **mandatory in-person components**: exams (mid-term and final).

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 “2021F VHM–8010–1” (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 statistics², and handy for quick calculations,
- this course: **essential for exams**; a calculator with basic calculus³ 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 primarily⁴ **Minitab**, but supports **Stata** and **R**; all 3 software packages:
 - * are well-documented and updated programs, available at UPEI (Stata note⁵),
 - * have good graphing facilities, and have **both menus** and **commands**,
- **you choose** between Minitab and others — a trade-off:
 - * **Minitab** (version 19 or 20): 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: 1/10, 18/10, 4/11 and 18/11 (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: Monday 13/12,
 - * 3 hours, in-class, open book, no computers (instead: computer listings),
- **mid-term exam** (**optional** ~ 15%, deducted from final exam):
 - * date: around 28/10, 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:

- mandatory⁶, 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 waiver⁷ 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.