

DSCI 3710.003– FALL 2025 – Syllabus

CLASS (DAY/TIME/LOCATION): Wed 2PM-4:50PM, BLB070
INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Dr. Michel FATHI

OFFICE: BLB 325 E **E-MAIL:** mfathi@unt.edu **OFFICE PHONE:** 940-565-3153

OFFICE HRS: schedule a meeting at: <https://calendly.com/9405653153> with Zoom Meeting ID: 940-565-3153 or by appointment.

Tutor hours: check the DSCI Lab schedule at <https://cob.unt.edu/lab/tutor>

Communication Expectations: The primary mode of communication is email (*Always put “DSCI3710” on the subject of any email sent to mfathi@unt.edu*). Allow up to 48 hours for reply, if not please contact again. I will maintain regular office hours and you are also welcome ask questions during that time. *If you have an urgent request, you can call my office number and leave a voice message.*

COURSE WEB SITE(S): You will be using Hawkes Learning materials for this course. To access Hawkes, click on the Hawkes links under the Assignments tab of your Canvas course.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE: *Discovering Business Statistics*, 2nd edition by Quinton Nottingham and James Hawkes ISBN: 978-1-642772-99-9 (Courseware + eBook)



The software access code is **required** to complete the assignments. If you took DSCI 2710/3710 previously and have an access code **for the above product**, then you can **reuse** it. If you have an access code for **the 1st edition of Discovering Business Statistics, you should be able to upgrade to the 2nd edition at no extra cost.**

If you need to purchase access, you may do so either from the UNT bookstore or through your Hawkes account. It may be cheaper to purchase directly online through Hawkes for \$88.99. To purchase through Hawkes, simply click the Hawkes Learning link in Canvas and click the Activate button on your dashboard.

For a full tutorial of the Hawkes website, please watch the following video:
<http://tv.hawkeslearning.com/VideoPlayerSingle.htm?PlayerID=5062857235001>

Please also see the **Student Getting Started Directions** page at the end of this syllabus. (@ page # 9).

For any questions or technical issues with the Hawkes courseware, please reach out directly to their Support Team via LiveChat (<http://chat.hawkeslearning.com>) or phone (1-800-426-9538)(M-F 7am-8pm CST).

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE:

Microsoft Excel with Data Analysis

You may be familiar with Excel; but its essential use for this course is illustrated in the Text (under the "Discovering Technology" segment) and on the [Hawkes Learning website \(Links to an external site.\)](#). As a UNT student, you can [install Microsoft Office for free through the UIT Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

Optional Books: Any Excel Primer - Most of you had an Excel reference in BCIS 2610 that will suffice.

GOALS: At the end of the course, students will

1. Have an increased appreciation for the use of statistics in business decision making,
2. acquire a positive attitude toward business statistics and how it is relevant for your future coursework and decision making,
3. be better able to read, understand and communicate in the language of applied business statistics,
4. be better able to select the appropriate statistical tool/methodology to aid in business decision making for your future course work and future job,
5. be able to use appropriate statistical formulae to solve problems,
6. be more capable of using a computer to describe and analyze numerical data,
7. have an enhanced ability to use quantitative methods for business decision making.

TEACHING METHOD:

1. Students are encouraged to pay attention to commercials and news items in print, as well as audiovisual media to become aware of the wide use of statistics in our daily lives. To better assist students in understanding the use of these methodologies in business, many of the class problems will be presented as simple business cases.
2. Students will be required to complete modules in **Hawkes Learning Systems (HLS): Discovering Business Statistics 2e**. This process is intended to help students make more efficient use of their time in learning how to solve problems.
3. The use of spreadsheets in analyzing business data will be stressed.
4. You should work on the homework assignments (HLS lessons and quizzes). The Hawkes Learning quizzes and the Hawkes Learning lessons are intended to assist you in better structuring the learning time you spend on mastering the course material. The best way to prepare for exams is to go over the practice exams posted on Canvas.

EVALUATION:

To demonstrate their ability to use quantitative techniques in business, students will complete the tutorials and quizzes (**Hawkes Learning Systems: Discovering Business Statistics 2e**) and answer exam questions based on short data analysis situations. Wherever possible, rather than being purely numerical, problems will be presented in word format. The exams and assigned work reinforce the course objectives by simulating real business problems that require students to communicate.

CAMPUS CLOSING POLICY: In the event of an official campus closing, please check your UNT e-mail account (EagleConnect) or the HLS notice system for instructions about how to turn in various assignments, how the due dates are modified, etc.

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. Doing the **assignments** is essential for success in this course. In fact, the assignments constitute a **large portion of your grade** in this course. Students are encouraged to keep up with the homework and meet the submission deadlines.
2. You should not hesitate to ask questions to me (Prof. Dr. FATHI).
3. Regular monitoring of the course material posted on Canvas is expected. The mid-term exam or the quizzes may be missed only if you have a University-approved excuse. Whenever applicable, such an excuse is to be provided to the instructor in writing, as early as possible.
4. Students have the final responsibility for seeing that they properly withdraw before the scheduled last drop day, in case they wish to withdraw from/ drop the course. A student who stops attending class should execute the drop procedure since failure to do so will result in a grade of “F” which cannot be changed.
5. Students are requested not to phone the ITDS department for their final grade in the course. Final grades are only available electronically.

DSCI 3710 COURSE- SPECIFIC POLICIES:

1. **Homework:** Homework is assigned and should be completed when due. While only the HLS modules (tutorials), Exams and Quizzes are graded, all reading material is testable, even if it is not emphasized in the lecture.
2. **Tutorial Exercises:** Tutorial exercises, also referred to as modules and lessons using the **Hawkes Learning Systems: Business Statistics (HLS)** are assigned. The due dates for the tutorials using **HLS** software are assigned in this syllabus. These form a significant part of the course grade and **must be completed by the due date** to receive full credit. To get the credit for an HLS lesson, you need to complete the “Certify” section of that lesson.
3. If you complete your assignment by the due date, you will receive full credit. The late penalty per week is **20%**, applicable for up to 4 weeks. If the assignment is completed **after 4 weeks**, you will receive a score of 0. The final day to complete the assignment is **November 30th**.
4. **Exams and Quizzes:** There is one mid-term exam and one comprehensive final exam. Each one is worth **250 points. Both of these exams will be available on Canvas.** No make-up exams are given, however, if a student misses the first exam (with an appropriate University approved excuse, as mentioned above) the final will be used to substitute for the missed exam (as well as for the final exam). Each exam will be open book, open notes, open laptop etc. You only get one attempt for each exam. Each of the **two (50 points each) Online HLS quizzes** is a summary test of the modules completed prior to them. **For these Online HLS quizzes, you get 1 attempt.** Any issues related to on time completion or credit for the modules and online quizzes should be resolved with the instructor within one week following their respective due dates. Such issues cannot be considered weeks later and especially not during compilation of the final grades, at the end of the semester.
5. **Grading:** The 16 HLS modules are worth a total of 400 points (@ 25 points each); The 2 HLS quizzes are worth a total of 100 points (@50 pts. each); The mid-term exam and the final exam are worth 250 points each.

Point Allocation:

Mid-term Exam	250
HLS Tutorials (16*25 pts)	400
HLS quizzes (2 * 50 pts)	100
Final Exam	250
TOTAL:	1,000

Extra Credit: We will announce in the class.

6. **Letter Grades:** If you achieve the following thresholds below, you are **guaranteed** to receive the letter grade listed next to them:

≥ 900 points $\rightarrow$ A
 ≥ 800 points $\rightarrow$ B
 ≥ 700 points $\rightarrow$ C
 ≥ 600 points $\rightarrow$ D
 < 600 points $\rightarrow$ F

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, and OTHER POLICIES

- To be eligible for enrollment in upper level business courses, students must have satisfied **all** of the following requirements:
 - A 2.70 grade point average
 - Completion of 45 hours of the pre-business course work,
 - Completion of **DSCI 2710** or equivalent a grade of C or better. **DSCI 2710** requires **MATH 1100 and 1190** as well **BCIS 2610**. In addition, students are required to have completed: Accounting 2020 with grade "C" or better and Economics 1100.

If you are a business major (including business undecided or pre-accounting majors) enrolled in upper level business courses and do not meet these requirements, please drop the upper level courses immediately in order to receive a refund of your tuition. If you choose not to drop, the Dean's office will administratively cancel your enrollment in those courses. In that event, you will **not** receive a tuition refund.

- If you wish to register a complaint, you should first discuss your complaint with your instructor. If you wish to carry it further, contact Dr. Hakan Tarakci hakan.tarakci@unt.edu (the course coordinator) and then the ITDS Department Chair (Dr. Anna Sidorova, anna.sidorova@unt.edu), but **only after discussing it with your instructor**.
- As a general rule, the course format requires **no makeup exam** be given. The grade of "I" is not given except for rare and very unusual emergencies, as per University guidelines.
- You are required to take all exams, unless a written medical excuse is provided. In that case, you should discuss the alternative arrangements with your instructor. Please have a picture ID in your possession when taking all exams.
- Academic integrity: This course adheres to the UNT policy on academic integrity. The policy can be found at [UNT Academic Integrity](#). If you engage in academic dishonesty you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment, or a failing grade in the course. In addition, the case may be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.
- Students with Disabilities: The College of Business Administration complies with the **Americans with Disabilities Act** in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disability. If you have

an established disability as defined in the "Act" and would like to request accommodation, please see your instructor as soon as possible. Office hours and the email are shown at the top of this syllabus.

7. Dates of drop deadlines, final exams, etc., are published in the university catalog and the schedule of classes. Please be sure you keep informed about these dates (and any change thereof).

8. **Grounds for Dismissal from the Course**

A student can be dismissed from the course with a grade of "WF" for reasons of unsatisfactory progress. Some grounds for unsatisfactory progress are as follows:

i. The student has more than 3 un-excused assignment returns (such as Excel or HLS, on their final due dates).

ii. The student misses (providing no reason)/ or is caught cheating on an examination.

If a student is suspected of unsatisfactory progress, the instructor will first issue a warning (oral) to the student.

Upon issuance of the warning, the student has three (3) actual days to provide evidence supportive of the student's position. For any missed exam the following evidence will be accepted as tenable excuse:

* Written and valid doctor's excuse for illness

* Inability to reach class due to inclement weather (i.e. ice and/or snow, flooding, etc.)

* Valid UNT sponsored event (must provide signed reference from head of sponsoring department.)

If the student provides satisfactory evidence, the instructor will reinstate him or her into the class.

If a student misses the final exam, he or she must provide the information stipulated above. If the excuse is acceptable, the instructor will submit an "I" for the final grade. **This is the only circumstance in which an "I" grade will be awarded. If you think you will not be able to complete the class satisfactorily, please drop the course. An "I" grade cannot be used to substitute your poor performance in class.**

If a student is caught cheating, he or she will be immediately removed from the class with a "WF" grade. To be reinstated, the student must provide substantial evidence to the contrary in a hearing held in the Dean of Students Office, University of North Texas.

The next page is a tentative outline for the semester. It is meant to be a guide and several items are subject to change. Exams and quizzes may be moved to better accommodate any changes in class pace. Certain topics may be stressed more or less than indicated.

DSCI 3710 – Topics

NOTE: THE DATES BELOW ARE TENTATIVE. FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION, REFER TO HAWKES AND CANVAS.

(HLS# means HLS: Business Statistics tutorials)

For important add/drop etc. dates see <http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
Week 1 (Aug 18-24)	Course policies HLS1: 10.1: Introduction to Hypothesis Testing	HLS: Obtain authorization code

Week 2 (Aug 25-Aug 31)	HLS2: 10.2 Testing a Hypothesis about a Population Mean, Sigma Known
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Week 3 (Sep 1-7)	HLS3: 10.3 Testing a Hypothesis about a Population Mean, Sigma Unknown
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HLS 10.1, 10.2, and 10.3 are due by 11.59 pm on Sep 5.

Week 4 (Sep 8-14)	HLS4: 11.1 Comparing Two Population Means, Sigma 1 and Sigma 2 Known HLS5: 11.2 Comparing Two Population Means, Sigma 1 and Sigma 2 Unknown
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Week 5 (Sep 15-21)	HLS6: 11.3 Paired Difference Test
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HLS 11.1, 11.2, and 11.3 are due by 11.59 pm on Sep 19

Week 6 (Sep 22-Sep 28)	HLS7: 12.1 Introduction to Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) HLS8: 12.3 The F-Distribution and the F-Test
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Week 7 (Sep 30-Oct 6)

HLS 12.1 and 12.3 are due by 11.59 pm on Oct 3.

HLS Quiz 1 is due on Sep 24.

***** Quiz 1 on HLS modules 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 12.1, and 12.3 for 50 points *****

Oct 1

******* EXAM 1 *******

Will be available online on Canvas during the class time on Oct 1. 75 minutes.

Week 8 (Oct 6-12)

HLS9: 10.5 Testing a Hypothesis about a Population Proportion HLS10: 11.4 Comparing Two Population Proportions

Week 9 (Oct 13-19)

HLS11: 16.3 The Chi-Square Test for Association
HLS12: 13.1 The Simple Linear Regression Model

Week 10 (Oct 20-26)

HLS13: 13.3 Evaluating the Fit of the Linear Regression Model
HLS14: 14.1 The Multiple Regression Model

HLS 10.5, 11.4 and 16.3 are due by 11.59 pm, Oct 10.

Week 11 (Oct 27-Nov 2)**Week 12 (Nov 3-9)**

HLS15: 14.2 The Coefficient of Determination and Adjusted R^2
HLS16: 14.5 Models with Qualitative Independent Variables

Week 13 (Nov 10-16)

HLS 13.1, 13.3, 14.1, 14.2 and 14.5 are due by 11.59 pm on Oct 17.

HLS Quiz 2 is due on Oct 22.

***** Quiz 2 on HLS modules 10.5, 11.4, 16.3, 13.1, 13.3, 14.1, 14.2, and 14.5 for 50 points*****

Week 14 (Nov 17-23)

NO CLASSES. ENJOY YOUR THANKSGIVING BREAK.

Week 15 (Nov 24-Nov 30)

Oct 29

**** COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM ****

Will be available online on Canvas during the class time

Week 16 (Dec 1-Dec 7)

Guest Speakers

Student Getting Started Directions – see <http://www.hawkeslearning.com/> for help

TO GET THE ACCESS CODE FOR YOUR COURSE:

1. Go to <http://www.hawkeslearning.com/Support/GetYourAccessCode.htm>. Phone HLS at 843-571-2825 for help
2. There will be three options on the above link and each option is explained clearly.
3. Choose the appropriate option that is applicable to you (for example “Purchase an access code”)
4. If you are purchasing the access code anew, you will be taken to a secure site, where you will be asked to enter your credit card information. Please note that the address information **MUST** match the billing address of the credit card.
5. After your credit card information has been verified, you will be taken to a page where you will request an Access Code by entering your name, school, and email address.

Upon submitting the Access Code request, your Access Code will be emailed to you as well as displayed on the screen.

TO ENROLL IN YOUR INSTRUCTOR’S GRADEBOOK:

You will automatically be asked to enroll in your instructor’s gradebook the first time that you log in to the software. Choose your instructor’s name and the correct section from the pull-down menus.

TO CERTIFY (DO YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN THE SOFTWARE):

1. The **Certify** option is where you will complete your assignment.
2. After certifying, you will be given a certification code (this verifies that you completed your assignment). It is recommended that you print and/or save your certification code.
3. **a. If you have internet access**, you should receive a message that says your certificate has been submitted in your instructor’s gradebook. You are now done with that assignment! If you do not receive this message, follow the directions under “b.”
b. If you do not have internet access, you will need to save the certification code file to a disk and upload the saved file from your disk on the internet from campus to get credit for your assignment in your instructor’s gradebook. To do this, - go to <https://course.hawkeslearning.com/UNTDBS/Default.asp> and **log in using your access code**
 - click the [Submit Certificate\(s\)](#) link
 - select the Lesson Name from the drop down list. Load your certification code from a disk and click OK. Your certification code is now submitted!
 - you need to perform these steps after you Certify to get credit for each of your assignments

*** Be sure you submit your Certification Code ON or BEFORE the due date to get full credit for the assignment.**

ETHICAL ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR IN ITDS CLASSES

The UNT College of Business and the ITDS Department expect their students to behave at all times in an ethical manner. There are at least two reasons for this. First, ethical behavior affirms the personal value and worth of the individual. Second, professionals in all fields (but particularly in information systems, decision sciences, accounting, and HR) frequently handle confidential information on behalf of their employers and clients. Thus employers of UNT's Ryan College of Business graduates expect ethical conduct from their employees because that behavior is crucial to the success of their organization. Academic dishonesty is unethical and often illegal too.

Students are expected to read (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>) UNT's Student Standards of Academic Integrity which defines academic dishonesty and sets out the consequences for unethical academic behavior. Cheating and plagiarism are the most common types of academic dishonesty. UNT's Code of Student Conduct <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-012> and the Provost's Academic Integrity page are also helpful <https://vpaa.unt.edu/ss/integrity>.

The UNT's Student Standards of Academic Integrity policy defines cheating as: *The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:*

1. *Use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;*
2. *Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;*
3. *Acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;*
4. *Dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;*
5. *Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.*

The university's policy defines plagiarism as the *"Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:*

1. *The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.*
2. *The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.*

Examples of academic dishonesty in an ITDS class include but are not limited to: copying answers from another person's paper; using notes during an exam; copying computer code from another person's work; having someone else complete your assignments or take tests on your behalf; stealing code printouts, software, or exams; recycling assignments submitted by others in prior or current semesters as your own; and copying the words or ideas of others from books, articles, reports, presentations, etc. for use as your own thoughts without proper attribution (i.e., plagiarism). It does not matter whether you received permission from the owner of the copied work; claiming the material as your own is still academic dishonesty.

The ITDS Department believes it is very important to protect honest students from unfair competition with anyone trying to gain an advantage through academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in ITDS classes, and those who engage in such behavior are subject to sanctions as outlined in the UNT's policy and/or the course syllabus. Read the policy carefully so that you are aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty and the consequences of such behaviors. If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment, and a failing grade in the course.

By signing below, I acknowledge my responsibility to read the UNT policy on Student Academic Integrity (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>); and attest that I have read and understand the statements in this document and agree to behave ethically in this class.

Student Name (Print) _____ Student ID No. _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

These ethical guidelines are essential to maintain the integrity of the university, college, department, faculty and most importantly the students. I view breaking the code of conduct as been unfair to your peers and stealing a degree. These ethical guidelines are common to both in-campus and online courses and is especially crucial for online activities.

A few key points to remember:

1. If you can google, I can google. You are not receiving course credits for being the best web-crawler (looking for answers in the website). The course credit is for mastering the content and understanding how to apply in your career.
2. **Don't use websites Chegg.com any website resources that offers solutions to textbook or problems. They all fall under plagiarism.** Credits are given only to your work
3. If you think you are doing something that is not right, then most probably it is not right. Ask the instructor or the tutor before proceeding that route.
4. Individual activities must be completed individually, and group activities as a group.
5. Give credit to your sources (data, article etc.), cite the source and acknowledge the help you receive – it will solve much of these issues. The instructor will grade based on your contribution.
6. Remember every online activity in canvas and Hawkes Learning websites are monitored.
7. If we have issues with your submissions, we will personally invite you to a zoom session and ask you explain the how you solved the problems. So be sure of what you submit

I would like to point out some of the activities we have sanctioned (awarded “F” grade and sometimes even more, removed from dean’s list, merit list etc.). I want to share this so that you know that we care integrity of the degree you receive from UNT.

1. In one of the semesters, some exams were conducted using Respondus lockdown browser and video monitoring. However, some students took advantage of a loophole and had help from resources outside the screen and camera. Our instructors viewed 120 hours of video recording and found a group of students involved in a coordinated plagiarism. **All were sanctioned, with some losing even scholarships!**
2. In one instance, a student outsourced all his assignments to a person outside this country. The assignments were flagged for abnormal activities and with the help of some technology providers we were able to trace the IP address. The student was sanctioned (**awarded a “F” grade in the course**)
3. Don’t use outside sources without understanding. In one of the assignment activities in a class, almost all students took an answer/definition from Wikipedia before understanding it. Use those unvetted sources carefully, anyone can edit them! The faculty corrected the entry and went to class to seek how the students got the answer. Almost all pointed to wiki, and the faculty opened the website in class to prove the point. The entry was updated! Use library and vetted resources and look for the citation in the Wikipedia article itself before using it. Understand what you are doing. Here the sanction was receiving a “zero” credit for the wrong answer!
4. In a similar vein, some students used outside tutoring service – they got the answers from the tutors (both online and offline) and plugged in the values and submitted it. These are easy to identify. We invited the students for one on one zoom meetings and they were unable to show how to solve the problems. Here the sanction was receiving a “zero” for all those assignments.
5. Almost exams and quizzes have multiple versions, and the numbers and options are different. So, if you use your peer – the chances of choosing the wrong answer is extremely high. In worst cases (it has happened in some instances), the student would have used the numbers and details from the different version. In such instances, the student is **automatically awarded a “F” grade.**