

Math 499A Spring 2018
Actuarial Senior Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Kathy Temple

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Office Hours: MWF 1 - 1:50PM, T 1:30 - 2:30 PM, and by appointment.

Course Goals: We'll be talking about the actuarial modeling process in this course, covering (I hope!) at least some of the material that will be on the new Exam PA. We'll also place an emphasis on communicating technical material clearly to a particular audience, both in writing and through presentations.

Prerequisite: Math 417B or 419B.

Required Texts: None; I will be distributing readings as we go along.

Evaluation:

- Homework and in-class exercises (40%)
- Case study (30%)
- Presentation (either about case study or about another project of your choosing, 20%)
- Participation (10%)

Grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

	A	93-100%	A-	90-92.99%	
B+	87-89.99%	B	83-86.99%	B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%	C	73-76.99%	C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%	D	63-66.99%	D-	60-62.99%
	F	59.99%	and below		

Course Conduct:

- **Required Materials:** None, except that you will need access to a computer with standard software.
- **Homework and In-Class Exercises:** Homework will be assigned most class meetings. It may have a variety of forms: You may be asked to read and respond to a reading; do 'traditional' homework problems; analyze a data set; or draft a memo or e-mail, for example. Due dates will be announced at the time of the assignment. In-class exercises may take any of the forms above, or may consist of small-group discussion and responding to a prompt, for example.

In all cases, work done on paper must be done neatly, *stapled*, and written on clean-edged paper (no notebook fringes). Your work should be clear, in a logical order, use correct mathematical notation, and provide sufficient explanation. What's sufficient explanation? A good guide is to think about whether another student in the class who didn't know how to do this particular problem could understand your solution. This will also help you understand your solution later! Collaboration on homework is permitted, but **copying is not permitted**. A good rule of thumb is that you should write up a problem on your own, even if you worked with others to figure it out.

- **Case Study:** We'll be working on a case study (or possibly 2!) over the course of the quarter. This will take various forms, but expect to be asked to model a particular actuarial situation, evaluate your model, and discuss your conclusions in a formal written document. As we work on this, various items will be assigned as "deliverables;" scores on these deliverables will be incorporated into this portion of your grade.
- **Presentation:** Near the end of the quarter, you'll make a formal presentation to the class. This will either be about one of the case studies that we worked on as a class or about another project of your choosing. More details will be provided closer to the end of the quarter.
- **Participation:** This is intentionally a seminar course - this means that your attentive presence and active participation is important. Participation includes being prepared for class, actively participating in discussions, and responding thoughtfully to the contributions of others.
- **Office Hours:** In addition to scheduled office hours, the block between 9AM and noon on Mondays, 9 - 9:50 on Wednesdays, and 10 - noon on Fridays will often be good times to find me. Late afternoons most Mondays and Fridays should be good, as well. I am tentatively planning on not being in the office before 1:30 on Tuesdays or all day Thursdays. I am, however, happy to make appointments - just please request an appointment before 5PM the day before (and please understand that you may have to be somewhat flexible about the time).
- **Other Information:** Central Washington University is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its diverse student body. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning, discuss your concerns with the instructor. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Services to discuss a range of options to removing barriers, including accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in Hogue 126. Call (509) 963-2214 or email ds@cwu.edu for more information.

I reserve the right to adjust policies in this syllabus if necessary during the quarter.

During the last week of class, you may have regular work and part of a case study assignment due, and may be doing a presentation.