Text. *Intro Stats*, 4th edition by De Veaux, Velleman and Bock. Having access to the textbook is required for the class, but the CD is not required.

Prerequisites. There is no prerequisite for this class.

Syllabus. The course will cover parts I through V from the text.

Learning Goals. Students in Math 8a will be able to:

- Describe concisely some information contained in a data-set (that is, describe statistical variables).
- Understand how to perform and interpret a “linear regression” between two statistical variables from a data set.
- Learn the techniques and pitfalls of data collection.
- Understand probability theory, that is, the mathematical framework in which non-deterministic phenomena can be analyzed.
- Understand how to use data to test precise hypotheses about non-deterministic phenomenon, and how to interpret the results of such tests (perform and interpret confidence intervals and statistical hypotheses).

Exams. There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Dates will be announced as soon as they are defined.

- Exam 1: Tuesday, October 10th in class.
- Exam 2: Tuesday, November 7th in class (tentative, alternative would be November 10th).
- Final Exam: Thursday, December 14th, 2017 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Room: TBD.

Each midterm exam will take one class period, 80 minutes sharp. The final exam will be during the exam period scheduled by the registrar and will last 3 hours. Exams are cumulative.

Grades. Your grade in the course will be based on the following:

1. **Homework (20% of your grade)**
   - Homework assignments will be collected once or twice a week and are due at the beginning of the class.
   - In general, no late homework will be accepted. However, every student gets two 24 hours rain checks. This means you can hand in one homework up to 48 hours late or two homeworks up to 24 hours late each. Use them wisely!
   - I encourage you to discuss homework problems with your classmates, but you must write up your own solutions. **You may not use any solution manuals.**

2. **RTQ of the day (5% of your grade)**
   - RTQ stands for Reading, Thoughts, and Questions.
• In this class we will be reading the book (and perhaps other resources) ahead from the
day in which the material will be covered by me.
• Before each class, there will be a reading assignment about material that we will cover
during class. After the reading you will complete a short online survey. Surveys will
vary. I might ask you questions from the material, I might ask you to write a question for
me, I might ask you to write your thoughts about what you learned or found confusing/
did not learn (yet).
• The due date for submitting the survey will be 9:30pm of the day before the
class. Please plan in advance since for a couple of these occasions the due date will be on a Thursday
when there is a religious holiday. I ask you to please submit the work on Wednesday if you plan to
observe the holiday.

(3) **In class participation (5% of your grade)**
• Throughout the semester I will hand in “Lemus-bucks” for in class participation, the
value of the bucks will vary depending on the activity / question.
• The bucks will be collected during the last day of classes and tallied.
• A total of $15 or more corresponds to the full 5% credit.

(4) **Two midterm exams (each 20% of your grade)**
(5) **Final exam (30% of your grade)**

**Calculators.** At home and in class you might use any calculator you so desire. **However, during
exams you will only be allowed to use a basic calculator.** That means only +, −, ×, ÷, and
√−. You may NOT use your phone. I will give some options on how to purchase a basic calculator
on the first day of class. If you decide to go ahead and purchase it before hand please do not spend
more than $5.

**LATTE.** All course materials and announcements for Math 8a will be available online on LATTE.
Log in at http://latte.brandeis.edu using your Unet username and password.

**Office hours.** You are encouraged to use your instructor’s office hours whenever you have questions
about the course material. If you can’t attend office hours, don’t hesitate to ask for an appointment
at another time.

**Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class time each week).** Success in this 4 credit
hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study
time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams,
etc).

**Students with disabilities.** If you are a student who needs academic accommodations because
of a documented disability you should contact me and present your letter of accommodation as
soon as possible. If you have questions about documenting a disability or requesting academic
accommodations you should contact Beth Rodgers-Kay in the Office of Academic Services at 63470
or at brodgers@brandeis.edu. Letters of accommodations should be presented at the start of the
semester to ensure provision of accommodations. Accommodations cannot be granted retroactively.

**Academic Integrity.** You are expected to follow the University’s policy on academic integrity,
which is distributed annually as Section 4 of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook (see
http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srsc/rr/index.html). Instances of alleged dishonesty will
be forwarded to the Department of Student Development and Conduct for possible referral to the
Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the
University. If you have any questions about how these policies apply to your conduct in this course,
please ask.
Demand list. If you are not enrolled yet and interested in joining the course please join the demand list and email me to request a consent code. I will reply as soon as I am able to accommodate you.