

Economics 30330: Statistics for Economics
Department of Economics
University of Notre Dame
Instructor: Julio Garín
Spring 2012

Description: This assignment consist of two parts. You are asked to read two books, in no particular order, and turn in by the deadline a three page summary of each reading.

The main goal is to introduce you to very interesting real life applications of statistical analysis to practical issues in general and to economic in particular. In conjunction with the material covered in class, these readings will hopefully provide you with a good sense of the importance of statistics, not only in research, but also in the decision-making process of any kind.

Prepare a coffee or tea, make yourself comfortable, and enjoy both the reading and a cup of whatever you had prepared. I think these books are very interesting (otherwise I would not have recommend them!), so make sure to have fun while learning. If you have any question, you know where to find me.

Books to be read: These are the books that I have decided to assign you.

1. *Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*, Michael Lewis, First Edition. W. W. Norton & Company.
2. *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, First Edition. Harper Perennial.

Note: If you have already read at least one of these books, you need to contact me.

Deadline: It is your responsibility to send me these summaries by e-mail with the subject "Book review", before 12:00PM of the following dates:

First Reading Deadline: Tuesday, March 20.

Second Reading Deadline: Wednesday, April 25.

Grading: Your grade will depend mainly on how well you address the following issues:

- What is the book about?
- How does it relate to our class?
- Relate some of the topics covered in class to at least one particular example in the book.
- What is the relevance of statistical analysis from the author's perspective.
- What did you enjoy the most about the book? What you did not like?
- Are there any shortcomings? How could it be improved?

It is important to remind you that, as mentioned in class, 20% of your grade in this assignment will depend on the exposition. You need to write clearly and efficiently: stick to the point and proceed in a logical manner. Is the summary of the book presentable? Does it look professional? If I cannot answer positively to both of these questions, your score will be downgraded.