

Defensive Statistics

This seminar will help participants recognize misleading statistical information.

Moderator:	John Armstrong
Date and Time:	Monday 2:00-4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting February 19, 2018
Format:	Seminar
Location:	Applewood Meeting Room, Amherst

Description: Whether in newspapers, on TV, or on the Internet, we are constantly bombarded with “statistics” claiming to validate some assertion or other. Many of these “validations” are misleading or false. This seminar will help participants recognize misleading statistical information. News stories about social policy, medical research, politics, nutrition, and many other fields provide copious examples.

Role of participants: We will use the popular paperback book *How to Lie with Statistics*, by Darrell Huff. Participants can report on a chapter in the book (perhaps giving additional technical detail), or discuss relevant examples of a chapter’s topic found in current media.

Resources: Besides using *How to Lie with Statistics*, familiarity with finding materials on the Internet is highly desirable.

About the Moderator: The moderator has led many seminars on topics in science, technology, and mathematics.

Maximum number of participants: 16

Emeriti accepted: yes

Course # 18SDS