

Thank you for registering for Biostatistics 140.642: Design of Clinical Experiments!

1. We are in the process of building a website for the course, which we hope will grow into an excellent resource for all of us by the end of the course.

As a first step, we are asking that you "**e-Register**" for our course at the course website:

<http://www.biostat.jhsph.edu/courses/bio642/>

This will allow us to send notifications and tailored email to students by making sure that we have the email address you would like us to use for the course. You might want to Bookmark the above link or, you can "google" biostatistics 642 to find the website.

We need to remind students of the requirement of prior completion of Biostatistics courses 140.621-624 or 140.651-4 (or equivalent elsewhere). If you have not met this requirement, you should get in touch with us right away to discuss and modify your registration, if necessary.

As in past years, the **required text** for the course will be:

Clinical Trials: A Methodologic Perspective (2nd Edition, 2005, Wiley) by Steven Piantadosi

This book is available now in the Medical Bookstore and also online at Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Also, if you have internet access through a Johns Hopkins IP address (or VPN from a remote site through Johns Hopkins), you can **freely access** the entire Piantadosi book online in chapter by chapter PDF files via Wiley InterScience Online Books:

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/bookhome/109921043>

For information on using JHSecure, the Johns Hopkins VPN service, on your remote computer (you will need your JHED ID and password) to access the online text:

<http://it.jhu.edu/remotearchive.html>

To hit the ground running, we ask that you read Chapters 1-4 from the Piantadosi text:

1. Preliminaries
2. Clinical Trials as Research
3. Why Clinical Trials are Ethical
4. Contexts for Clinical Trials

We will be updating the website with the lecture topics and assignments very soon and we will keep you informed about updates of interest to you.

Just to summarize action the action items for those who are still reading:

1. e-Register for the course
2. Obtain the Piantadosi text in hard copy and/or online
3. Read Chapters 1-4 in said text
4. Come to Room W2008 next Thursday, 8/28/2008, at 3p for the first class

Jim and Scott