What is Statistics?
• Statistics is a way of reasoning about the world around us.
• Statistics helps us use data to make informed decisions.

Statistics in a Word
• Statistics is about …variation.
  – The world is full of data.
  – Data exhibit variation.
  – Recognizing, displaying and quantifying variation in data can help us make sense of the world.
  – Try to explain variation.

Statistics in the News
• Decrease in gonorrhea rates credited to high beer taxes.
• Study links suicide, country music.
• Pro wrestling tied to dating violence.
Statistics in the News

• TM lessens brain’s pain response.
• Caffeine reduces skin cancer risks, study shows.

How can I do well in this class?

• Attend all lectures and pay attention.
• Complete all assignments.
• Go over answers to assignments.
• READ and STUDY the textbook.
• Come to office hours with questions.
• Form study groups with fellow students.
• Make sure you can use a calculator.
• Make sure you can do basic algebra.