

# STAT 231 — LECTURE 1

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## Quick Notes

We won't discuss R that much in class (I guess we'll cover them in our quizzes). Apparently chapter 3 is scary. Also today's intro was cut short because we were unable to load today's slides onto the projector.

## 1.1 Introduction

Statistics is focused on *empirical studies*, which involves learning by watching. It includes:

- Experiments (we change something)
- Observation (we watch)

**Uncertainty** is what makes statistics its own discipline. For instance, statisticians won't say, "this drug is better"; rather, they'll say, "*it seems* that this drug is better."

### 1.1.1 Terminology

- **Unit:** an individual "thing" (e.g., patient, location)
- **Population:** a collection of units