STATS 779	**Professional Skills for Statisticians**	**Semester 1, 2009**

Lecturers:	Associate Professor James Curran
	Associate Professor David Scott
Lectures:	Tuesday and Thursday 14:00–15:30
	Basement Teaching Laboratory, Room B75, Building 303

Aim

This course aims to introduce students to software tools which are useful in applied statistics and statistical research. Many of these tools use a command line approach rather than a graphical user interface. The emphasis is on software which enhances productivity and improves the quality of statistical work.

Lecture sessions take place in a computer laboratory and comprise a lecture type introduction followed by practical exercises on the computer.

Course Topics

The course covers the following topics:

- Excel
- Emacs and text editing
- Regular expressions
- LaTeX
- R
- Beamer
- Sweave
- MySQL
- Maple

Assessment

The final grade will be based on six assignments given during the course plus a test.
Note that because it is relatively easy to get high marks when most of the assessments relies on assignment work, the standard conversion from mark to letter grade (85–100 $\Rightarrow$ A+, etc) will not be used to determine final grades.

Course Materials

There is no required text for the course. A number of tutorials and and manuals will be handed out.

Material such as assignments will be made available via Cecil. Cecil will also be used for emailing course announcements. Please ensure that the address to which Cecil sends email is one which you monitor regularly.

A discussion forum has also been set up using the Department of Statistics' forum system. Go to http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/forum/