Self-correction exercise

1  OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to improve critical thinking, esp. quantitative reasoning about statistical data. The assumption is that everyone is capable of improving their critical thinking if motivated and properly coached. The key to attaining this objective is intellectual honesty. [We are not talking about “not cheating on tests.” We are talking about being truthful with yourself.] For the rest of the semester I will be your coach to help you in your journey. I will also appoint student captains who will help in this process.

2  RULES FOR INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

1) Self-identify blind spots, weaknesses, and mistakes and then work to remedy them. This requires more time than you think. It also requires more courage than you might think.
2) “Be quick, but don’t hurry” (John Wooden).
3) Do not take anything personally. A mistake is an opportunity to learn.
4) Do not make anything up. Don’t take short cuts. Remember the Law of the Farm.
5) Do not repeat anything you do not agree with or understand.
6) Seek quality information. It’s worth the extra effort.
7) The key is constancy of effort.

3  ASSUMPTIONS

1) Students are independent self-governing adults that desire intellectual integrity.
2) Students have faith that intellectual integrity is in their future emotional and financial interests.
3) Students see through empty rhetoric about student success promoted by university and other social and corporate structures.

4  MIDTERM EXAM 2 SELF-CORRECTION

1) Organize your notes since the last midterm.
2) One question at a time, determine if your answer on the test was correct and optimal.
3) If you believe your answer was suboptimal, revise the response using standard markup editing with a blue, red, or purple pen. [Use this mark to indicate a deletion: ¯\_\_\_\_.]
4) When appropriate, annotate your revision documenting what you learned.
5) Coaching will occur in class on 4/18 & 4/20.
7) Insightful correction will receive half credit of the question that were missed.