SYA 4400, sections 01 and 02
Social Statistics

Fall 2007

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Course Description and Objectives
Although most people believe they know nothing about statistics, we all encounter and interpret statistics in our daily lives: in classes, in the news, in sports, and even in the weather. Statistics are simply a way of organizing, summarizing, and communicating numerical information. The more you know about how the statistics you encounter each day are generated and what they mean, the better you will understand the world around you.

The goal of this class is to enable you to produce and interpret basic social statistics — the tools that sociologists and other social scientists use to describe and explain the social world. When you have completed this class, you will:

- understand the value of statistics in everyday life and the role of statistics as an important tool in social science research;

- be able to calculate and interpret a variety of basic social statistics, including descriptive measures, measures of association, and inferential statistics;

- be able to apply SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) to large-scale data sets to produce statistical reports.

Mastering these objectives will enhance your understanding of the material you're encountering in other Sociology courses and provide you with the analytical skills employers and graduate school admissions committees expect of social science graduates.

Course Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites for this course. Students enrolling for this class should be aware of the following:

- You need to perform *some* math to calculate statistics and ***knowledge of the following is assumed: multiplication, division, addition, subtraction, squares and square roots, and the order of operations***.

- Success in this course is dependent on the willingness to ***work through recommended problem sets*** and ***seek help*** as necessary from Professor Brewster and the Graduate Assistant.

Course Materials

text

The text, available at Bill's and the FSU Bookstore, is:

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and Anna Leon-Guerrero. *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*, 4th edition. Pine Forge Press, 2006.

The book includes a CD, formatted for Windows, that contains text appendices and data files from the General Social Surveys.

other stuff

- calculator
- notebook, preferably three-ringed so that you can insert copies of the PowerPoint slides with the notes you take in class

Course Policies and Requirements

class meetings

Learning statistics requires a lot of hands-on experience. Therefore, most class sessions will include a lecture *and* in-class exercises, done either singly or in small groups. ***Please bring your calculator to every class meeting.*** Periodically, we'll use the classroom computers to explore the use of SPSS to calculate the statistics you are learning about in the lectures and reading assignments.

attendance

Course attendance is ***required***. Attendance will be registered daily by sign-in sheet.

classroom behavior

All students must have the opportunity to learn without distraction. Students who violate the following behavioral requirements will be required to withdraw from the class.

- All electronic devices must be turned off. This includes cell phones, mp3 players, PDAs, and personal laptops.
- Classroom computers should be on *only* at the professor's request
- During lectures, you should not talk for any reason other than academic discourse, read newspapers, snap gum, attend to personal hygiene, or engage in any other behavior that may be distracting to the instructor or other students
- Be on time for class and stay for the duration. If you have another commitment (work, child care issues) that would cause regular tardiness or early exits, **do not register for this class**. If you must enter late or leave early, be as unobtrusive as possible.

getting help

It is **your** responsibility to seek help in a timely fashion if you're having trouble mastering course material. Professor Brewster is available during her office hours and at other times by appointment. The Graduate Assistant will also be available for help, during scheduled computer labs and by appointment. Lab dates will be announced on the course web site.

computer access

Course projects will require use of SPSS, a statistical software package. You do not have to purchase your own copy: All PCs in the campus computer labs have SPSS. Information on lab schedules and locations is available on-line at http://www.ucs.fsu.edu/labs/.

course web site

The course web site includes contact information for Professor Brewster and the course Graduate Assistant, useful links, course documents, practice exercises, and sample exam questions. All students who are correctly registered for the course have access to this site.

grade calculation

Three tests:	Each counts toward 25% of the course grade
Two projects:	Each counts toward 10% of the course grade
One quiz:	Counts toward 5% of the course grade.

grade scale

Course grades are calculated on a 100 point scale. This translates to the letter scale used by FSU as follows:

93 - 100 = A	90 - 92 = A-	87 - 89 = B+	83 - 86 = B	80 - 82 = B-	77 - 79 = C+
73 - 76 = C	70 - 72 = C-	67 - 69 = D+	63 - 66 = D	60 - 62 = D-	59 or below = F

FSU Academic Honor Policy

ALL students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Policy. Two aspects of the Honor Policy are particularly relevant to this course:

(1) **All work you hand in for this class must be your own.** While you may discuss assignments outside of class, *you must complete them yourself*.

(2) **No unauthorized materials may be used during exams.** "Unauthorized" means *anything* that was not given to you by the professor or graduate assistant at the exam's start.

Violation of these strictures constitutes academic dishonesty and may result in a failing course grade. **ALL** students involved in any form of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the Dean of Students. A full explanation of the Honor Code is available on-line at: http://www.fsu.edu/~dof/honorpolicy.htm

Americans with Disabilities Act

*During the **first two weeks of class***, students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) present to Professor Brewster documentation from the Center indicating the need for and type of accommodation.

For information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at the Dean of Students Office. They're located in the Student Services Building. Phone them at: (850) 644-9566 (voice) or (850) 644-8504 (TDD), email them at SDRC@admin.fsu.edu or visit their web site at http://www.fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is ***subject to change with advance notice***. Changes will be announced in class and on the course web site.

Class Calendar

Meeting	Date	Topic	Reading & Project due dates
1	8-28	Introduction to class	
		Unit 1: Organizing and describing data	***Chapters 1-5***
2	8-30	The research process	Ch. 1
3	9-4	Levels of measurement	
4	9-6	Frequency distributions	Ch. 2
5	9-11	Frequency distributions, continued	
6	9-13	Graphic presentation of data	Ch. 3
7	9-18	Measures of central tendency	Ch. 4
8	9-20	Measures of central tendency, continued	
9	9-25	Measures of variability	Ch. 5
10	9-27	Measures of variability, continued	
11	10-2	Review for Test 1	**PROJECT 1**
12	10-4	**TEST: Unit 1**	
		Unit 2: Probability and statistical significance	***Chapters 9-12***
13	10-9	The normal distribution	Ch. 9
14	10-11	Normal distribution, continued	
15	10-16	Sampling and sampling distributions	Ch. 10
16	10-18	Sampling and sampling distributions	
17	10-23	Point and interval estimation	Ch. 11
18	10-25	Point and interval estimation, continued	
19	10-30	Evaluating statistical significance	Ch. 12
20	11-1	Evaluating statistical significance, continued	
21	11-6	Review for Test 2	
22	11-8	**TEST 2: Unit 2**	
		Unit 3: Relationships between two variables	***Chapters 6-8***
23	11-13	Cross-tabulating variables	Ch. 6
24	11-15	Cross-tabulating variables, continued	
25	11-20	Measures of association for nominal and ordinal variables	Ch. 7
26	11-27	Measures of association, continued	
27	11-29	Correlation and bivariate regression	Ch. 8
28	12-4	Correlation and bivariate regression, continued	
29	12-6	Review for Test 3	**PROJECT 2**
	FINALS WEEK	**TEST 3: Unit 3** **SECTION 01: 12-14 at 12:30 – 2:00 PM** **SECTION 02: 12-10 at 7:30 – 9:00 AM**	