

Social Statistics

Sociology SYA: 4400
Section: 0004
Time: M-W 11:00-12:15
Fall 2008
Building/Room: BEL 0023

Graduate Instructor: Jordan Brown
Office: Bellamy 510
Office Phone: 644-4428
Office Hours: M-W 1:30-2:30
(or by appointment)
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Course Description: This course is meant to introduce students to basic statistical methods used by social scientists. We will cover both descriptive and inferential statistical techniques for interpreting numerical data.

Course Goals and Objectives: Knowledge of statistics can be valuable in both academic and non-academic careers. In this course I would like you to learn the value and use of statistics in everyday life. In addition, by the end of this course you will be able to compute and interpret basic statistical concepts. Finally, by the end of this course you should be able to use SPSS to produce statistical reports using large data sets.

Required Readings:

There is one textbook required for class. The 6th edition of Gravetter and Wallnau's *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences*. This book should be available at the FSU bookstore, Bills Bookstore, or through online vendors.

Any additional reading will be posted on the Blackboard course website in the course library. I urge you to complete all reading prior to coming to class. This will help you understand the material, and will help you score better on quizzes and exams.

Blackboard: The blackboard course website will allow for fast communication between class members. Please visit blackboard and monitor your FSU email account regularly for course announcements. The most effective way to contact me is through e-mail (jtb04e@fsu.edu). I regularly check my e-mail throughout the day and will respond to emails as soon as possible.

Course Requirements:

1. Exams: There will be three in-class exams, which will cover material from the lectures, readings (2 in class midterms and one final exam). The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and problem solving questions. Each exam will be worth 25 percent of your final grade. Exams must be taken during the scheduled period. Make-ups will only be given under extreme circumstances and must be arranged **prior** to the scheduled exam time. If you are unable to take an exam during the scheduled period because of an illness, you must provide documentation explaining why you could not be present. Except for a dire emergency, failure to show up for an exam without contacting me in advance will automatically result in an F for that exam and computed as such into the final grade. Students who are unable to provide documentation of why they were not present will receive an F for the exam they missed.

2. Quizzes/Homework/In Class Assignments: There will occasionally be short pop quizzes, in class assignments, or homework assignments over the assigned class readings and lectures. These assignments will count towards 10 percent of your final course grade. The quizzes are not meant to trick you, but rather to help you keep caught up on the course reading and techniques discussed in class. The quizzes should not be very difficult if you have done the assigned readings on time and pay attention in class, and if you do not fall behind in your reading should be a good way to bump up your grade. In class assignments will be small exercises that will vary across the course of the semester. These may include short group work projects, minute papers, or worksheets in class. Homework

assignments may consist of worksheets, quizzes on blackboard, or problems assigned from the textbook. In order to receive credit for homework assignments you must be present in class on BOTH the day the assignment is given AND the day the assignment is due. You will not be able to make up quizzes or assignments without a **documented** excused absence.

3. Mini Projects. Throughout the semester there will be three short mini “projects” assigned to the class. These projects will cover the techniques discussed in class. In order to complete the assignments you will be required to do hand computations as well as using the statistical software program SPSS. You may purchase the student version of SPSS if you choose; however, the program is quite expensive and is available for free to students at university computer labs. Project requirements will be posted AT LEAST a week before the due date. For more information about FSU computer labs please visit http://us.fsu.edu/index_labs.html.

4. Class Participation: Student participation is highly valued in this class. The more participation we have the more we will all learn. Consistently contributing high quality participation throughout the course of the entire semester will be rewarded. If you are between two grades, but have consistently participated, you will receive the higher grade in this class.

5. Attendance: Regular attendance is a requirement of this class and attendance will be taken during every class period we meet (with the exception of optional exam review sessions). You are allowed three unexcused absences. Beginning on your fourth unexcused absence, there will be a penalty of 2 percent off of your final course grade for each additional absence.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students’ absences will be excused to observe religious holidays; however, students are still responsible for all of the material covered in class on those days they have missed. It is your responsibility to make sure you make up missed work as quickly as possible. Please inform me ahead of time if you will be missing class to observe a religious holiday.

5. Arrive On Time: Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay in class for the entire period. If you must arrive late or leave class early due to extreme circumstances please let me know ahead of time and enter or exit the classroom as quietly as possible. Students will be downgraded for arriving to class late or leaving class early.

6. Cell Phone and Laptop Use: Please turn off or silence your cell phone before class. Do not talk on, or send text messages during class. Laptops are permitted only for class activities (i.e. taking notes). Please do not surf the web or IM during class time. I reserve the right to downgrade students for inappropriate cell phone or computer use.

7. Classroom Conduct: Professional Behavior is expected in this course at all times. This class will have students enrolled from a variety of backgrounds who hold a variety of differing opinions. This diversity only adds to the enjoyment of the class and our learning experiences. Additionally, we will be covering sensitive subjects that on which students may hold differing views. Your opinions and participation in this class is highly valued, and you are encouraged to share your opinions, so long as it is presented in a respectful way. Students who are unable to act professionally, and treat others with respect will be removed from the class and receive a failing grade.

Your course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Exams	20% Each
Quizzes /Homework	10%
Mini Projects	10% Each
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Total	100%

Grading Scale:

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

Office Hours: I encourage you to come to my office hours if you are having trouble with the course material, or if you would like to discuss any concerns you are having with the class. If you are unable to come during my normal office hours I am more than happy to set up an alternate time during which we can meet.

Administrative Details: Incompletes will only be given under extreme circumstances. The FSU student conduct book outlines the circumstances under which a grade of incomplete can be given. In this class we will cover sensitive topics. If you feel that you may have issues with the course material I urge to speak with me as soon as possible. Finally, this syllabus is tentative and is subject to change at my discretion. Please regularly check the course website and your FSU email for announcements of course changes.

Academic Honor Code: The Academic Honor System of the Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility: (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work; (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community; and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code (<http://www/fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor/html>).

Plagiarism Caution: The Provost and legal counsel of Florida State University warn us that any uses of others' copyrighted materials without proper acknowledgement is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution. To this end, please be scrupulous in using the work of others by giving full and appropriate credit to the sources and materials that you use. Please use care when taking words and phrases from others. If you use a string of three or more exact words from another source, you must place the words in quotes and cite the author, year and page number. Any confirmed instance of plagiarism will result in an F grade for this course.

Cheating: Any form of cheating in this course will be immediately reported to the administration and will result in an F for this course and your possible expulsion from the university. Refrain from any form of cheating, including signing others in on the attendance sheet.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) register with and provide documentation from the Student Disability Resource Center, and (2) bring me a letter indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact: The Student Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students, 97 Woodward Avenue (<http://www/fsu.edu/~staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>).

Important Dates to Keep In Mind:

Labor Day: No Class	Sept 1st
1st Midterm Exam	Sept 24 th , in class
2nd Midterm Exam	Oct 29 th , in class
Final Exam	TBA

Tentative Class Schedule *

* *NOTE: this class schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Day 1 Aug 25 th	Welcome to Class
Day 2 Aug 27 th	Introduction to Statistics, Key terms, Statistical Notation <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 1</i>
Sept 1st	Labor Day No Class
Day 3 Sept 3 rd	Frequency Distribution <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 2</i>
Day 4 Sept 8 th	Central Tendency <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 3</i>
Day 5 Sept 10 th	Variability <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 4</i>
Day 6 Sept 15 th	Variability
Day 7 Sept 17 th	Z-Scores <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 5</i>
Day 8 Sept 22 nd	Z-scores
Day 9 Sept 24 th	Probability <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 6</i>
Day 10 Sept 29 th	Exam 1
Day 11 Oct 1 st	Sampling <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 7</i>
Day 12 Oct 6 th	Overflow/Makeup
Day 13 Oct 8 th	Hypothesis Testing Mini Project 1 Due <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 8</i>
Day 14 Oct 13 th	Hypothesis Testing

Day 15 Oct 15th	The t statistic <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 9</i>
Day 16 Oct 20th	Independent sample t test <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 10</i>
Day 17 Oct 22nd	Related Sample t test <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 11</i>
Day 18 Oct 27th	Related Sample t test
Day 19 Oct 29th	Exam 2
Day 20 Nov 3rd	Estimation <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 12</i>
Day 21 Nov 5th	ANOVA <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 13</i>
Day 22 Nov 10th	Overflow/Makeup
Day 23 Nov 12th	ANOVA Mini Project 2 <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 14</i>
Day 24 Nov 17th	ANOVA
Day 25 Nov 19th	Correlation and Regression <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 15</i>
Day 26 Nov 24th	Correlation and Regression
Day 27 Nov 26th	Overflow/Makeup
Day 28 Dec 1st	Chi-Square test <i>Assigned Reading: Chapter 16</i>
Day 29 Dec 3rd	Chi-Square Test Mini Project 3 due
	FINAL EXAM TBA