

Social Statistics Distance Learning

Sociology SYA: 4400
Sections: 6. 7. 8. 9 10
Spring 2009

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Course Description: This course is an online distance learning course 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. Because you will be learning from a distance, the course website and email will be our primary form of interaction. Please feel free to contact me or the course mentor at any time via email. When contacting us, please put the SYA4400 in the subject line of the email.

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.

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.

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: This course has three required exams. The exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and computation questions. It is highly suggested that you use a calculator when completing the exams. Exams will become available Sunday night at Midnight of the week due, and must be completed by Wednesday at Midnight to receive credit. You will need your textbooks and a calculator when taking the exams. You are free to use any notes, assignments, or readings while taking the exam. You must complete the exam in one sitting, and you will have two hours to complete each exam. Please see the course schedule for exam dates. Exams will not be accepted late without a documented excuse absence.

2. Quizzes. Each week, with the exception of exam weeks, there will be a short multiple choice quiz. The quizzes will cover the material covered in the assigned reading. You are free to use your books, and I suggest having a calculator available prior to beginning the quiz. You have 15 minutes to complete the quiz, and the quizzes must be completed in once started. You will not have multiple attempts at the quiz. Quizzes are due by Sunday at midnight, and may not be made up without a documented excused absence. Each quiz consists of 5 questions and is worth 10 points

3. Homework. Throughout the semester there will be three short Homework assignments for this class. These projects will cover the techniques discussed in class. In order to complete the assignments you will be required to

do hand computations of problems from the book, and possibly other supplemental materials. The homework assignments will be posted at least one week before the due date. Assignments should be typed, or scanned into a pdf document and submitted on the course website. Late work will not be accepted.

4. Mandatory First day Attendance: Florida State University has a mandatory first day attendance requirement. Students who are not present on the first day of class will be dropped from the course. In order to fulfill this requirement for the online class, you must email the course mentor at pbm07d@fsu.edu by midnight January 7th. Any students who fail to email the course mentor by this time will be dropped from the course.

5. Discussion Boards. For this online class there will be optional discussion boards. These boards will allow you to discuss questions and concerns you are having with the course materials with your fellow students. I will monitor these boards and try to clear up any recurring questions that seem to be coming up among many class members. You are not required or graded on participation in the discussion boards, but it will allow you to clear up questions with other student, and give me a sense of what material the class is having trouble with.

6. Chapter Overviews. For each chapter, I will provide a short overview that will be posted on blackboard. These overviews will give a brief summary of the main points of the chapter being covered that week. It will hopefully clear up unclear points in the chapter, and will provide you with a sense of the most important topics covered in that chapter. These overviews should be read prior to taking the weekly quiz.

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.

Your course grade will be calculated in the following way:

Exams	100 points each (300 points total)
Quizzes	10 points each (130 points total)
Homework	50 points each (150 points total)
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Total	580 points

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: Because this is an online distance learning class, I will not be holding any official office hours. For questions over the material please feel free to contact the Online Mentor, Patrick McGrady at pbm07d@fsu.edu or me at jtb04e@fsu.edu with questions about the course or any covered material.

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/htm1>).

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/>).

If your problems or questions concern your computer equipment, software, Internet connection, or the course website, follow the procedures described in one of the following two boxes:

If you have a technical question and are able to connect to the Internet:

1. Check out the *Online Support* website at:

<http://online.fsu.edu/onlinesupport>

2. You may go directly to the *Student Handbook for Online Learning*, which provides step-by-step instructions on using the course website as well as technical contacts. It is available online at:

<http://www.fsu.edu/~distance/media/studenthandbook.pdf>

3. If your question or problem is not addressed by the websites listed above, then send an **e-mail** to:

problems@campus.fsu.edu

If your problem concerns your course website, please include the following information in your email:

The area in the course website at which you are experiencing difficulties (e.g., Discussion Board, Virtual Chat room, or file upload)

A detailed description of the problem and exact transcriptions of any error messages

Your course, course prefix, section, and instructor's name

Your name, email address, and a daytime phone number

And, if you can, include the following technical information:

The Web browser you are using (e.g., Netscape Navigator, Microsoft Internet Explorer, AOL)

The operating system you are using (i.e., Windows 95, 98, or NT; Mac; Linux; or Unix)

Whether you are connecting with a modem or within a network

You will receive a reply to your email on the next business day.

If you have a technical question and are *not* able to connect to the Internet:

Call the ACNS Help Desk at **1-850-644-8502, option 1.**

Important Dates to Keep In Mind:

Homework 1	Due by Midnight February 5 th
1st Midterm Exam	Due by Midnight February 11 th
Homework 2	Due by Midnight March 19 th
2nd Midterm Exam	Due by Midnight March 25 th
Homework 3	Due by Midnight March 23 rd
Final Exam	Due by Midnight April 29 th

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topics	Assigned Reading	Homework and Quizzes	Important Information
1	1/6-1/10	Principles of statistics; levels of measurement	Chapter 1	Complete Quiz by midnight of the 10th	
2	1/11-1/17	Distributions	Chapter 2	Complete Quiz by midnight of the 17th	
3	1/18-1/24	Central tendency	Chapter 3	Complete Quiz by midnight of the 24th	
4	1/25-1/31	Variability	Chapter 4	Complete Quiz by midnight of the 31st	
5	2/1-2/7	Z-Scores	Chapter 5	Complete Homework 1 by midnight on Friday, Quiz 7th	Homework Assignment 1 Due Midnight Friday
6	2/8-2/14				Exam 1 Chapters 1-5 due by midnight Wednesday
7	2/15-2/21	Probability	Chapter 6	Complete Quiz by midnight 21st	
8	2/22-2/28	Sampling and sampling distributions	Chapter 7	Complete Quiz by midnight 28th	
9	3/1-3/7	Hypothesis testing	Chapter 8	Complete Quiz by midnight 7th	
10	3/8-3/14	Spring Break			
11	3/15-3/21	Hypothesis testing: t-test for a single mean	Chapter 9	Complete Homework 2 by midnight Friday, Quiz 21st	Homework Assignment 2 Due Midnight Friday
12	3/22-3/28				Exam 2 Chapters 6-9 due by Midnight Wednesday
13	3/29-4/4	Hypothesis testing: comparing two means	Chapter 10	Complete Quiz by midnight 4th	
14	4/5-4/11	Estimation	Chapter 12	Complete Quiz by midnight 11th	
15	4/12-4/18	Analysis of variance	Chapter 13	Complete Quiz by midnight 18th	

16	4/19- 4/25	Correlation & regression	Chapter 15	Complete Homework 3 by midnight Friday, Quiz 25th	Homework Assignment 2 Due Midnight Friday
17	4/26- 4/29	Final Exam			Final Exam Chapters 10, 12, 13, 15 due by Midnight Wednesday