

SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY 3350 – SOCIAL STATISTICS

Fall 2012

12:35 – 1:30 MWF, 401 Rogers-Stout Hall

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Nick Berigan (berigan@etsu.edu)

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Morgan Jones (jonesms@goldmail.etsu.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: 218A Rogers-Stout; 9:00-12:00 Tuesdays and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT BOOK: *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, Ninth Edition* by Joseph H. Healey (ISBN 978-1-111-18636-4)

LEARNING OUTCOMES: The goal of this course is to introduce students to statistical methods, and to demonstrate their use in sociology. By the end of the class, you will learn to do the following:

- Use simple statistical tests to describe populations, make comparisons between groups, and generate predictions.
- Use the statistical software SPSS to conduct statistical tests on large data sets.
- Conduct original research, applying the statistical methods learned in class.
- Apply critical thinking skills to assess the arguments made by others in their written work.

This course seeks to immerse students in the ways in which sociologists use statistics. Because sociologists do not do calculate statistics by hand, this course will emphasize when each statistical test is useful, and what they actually tell you. However, hand computations are still an integral portion of the class. Plan to bring the following to class every day:

- A calculator (any calculator with a square root function will be fine)
- A USB flash drive for storing data (for the research project and computer lab assignments)

REQUIREMENTS: Because the course requires that you learn and refine techniques for statistical analysis, this course will require you to complete a fair amount of assignments. All exams are open book and open note. In addition to the exams, grades will entail the following:

- **Quizzes:** You will be given a quiz on each day a reading assignment is due. The quizzes will be conceptual, rather than computational. If you take notes over the reading assignment, you may use your notes on the quiz.
 - *Quizzes will assess understanding of the concepts surrounding the statistical tests.*
- **Problem Sets:** For each chapter, you will be asked to demonstrate the skills taught in that chapter through these homework assignments. I *encourage* you to work with each other on your problem sets outside of class, but I will require one assignment per person. Please bring a second copy of your homework (a photocopy is fine). We will devote time

on the due date of the assignment for students to ask questions and go over the homework, and you will receive half credit for fixing your errors.

- *Problem sets will assess ability to use simple statistical tests.*
- **Computer Lab Assignments:** These assignments will be in conjunction with computer lab days. On computer lab days, we will meet in Room 320 of Rogers-Stout Hall (see schedule). You will use SPSS to complete the assignment, and the assignment will be due at the end of class.
 - *Computer lab assignments will assess ability to use SPSS.*
- **Research Paper:** You will gain first-hand experience in sociological research using a large data set. You will design your own project. In addition to applying the lessons you learned to their project, you will refine skills in scientific writing and in critical editing of others' work. More information about the research paper will come later in the semester.
 - *The research paper will assess ability to work with SPSS, to work collaboratively on an original research project, and to think critically and edit others' work.*

GRADES: The grades will be determined as follows: 30% from the exams (15% from the midterm and 15% from the final), 30% from the research paper (proposal, rough draft, peer editing, and final draft), and 40% from in-class assignments (quizzes, problem sets, and computer lab assignments).

Grades are as follows: 94-100% A, 90-93.99% A-, 87-89.99% B+, 84-86.99% B, 80-83.99% B-, 77-79.99% C+, 74-76.99% C, 70-73.99% C-, 67-69.99% D+, 60-66.99% D, Under 60% F.

CLASS POLICIES

- **ADA Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Office of Disability Services (423-439-8346, or Room 326 CULP) to make appropriate arrangements and then contact me about those arrangements.
- In accordance with general University regulations, I reserve the right to automatically fail any student who is gone for more than three weeks worth of class periods. If you have a conflict with your class schedule which will make it difficult for you to be on time, or if you will need to attend any University-sponsored events, please let me know ASAP.
- You are responsible for everything that happens in class whether you are present in class or not. This includes but is not limited to announcements, schedule and syllabus changes, handouts, etc.
- Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in the pursuit of appropriate disciplinary action. Consult the student handbook for definitions of these terms.

- Late Policy: With the exception of an excused absence (e.g., sickness, death in the family, out of town on university activities), late work will not be accepted. If you have an emergency which will prevent you from having an assignment in on time, let me know ahead of the due date and we can work something out.
- Please use lined notebook paper, and remove all frayed edges before turning in your assignment. Also, please use manuscript, rather than cursive, for all of your written work. *If I cannot read your handwriting, I will mark your answer wrong.*
- Please turn off your cell phone when class starts. If I catch you using it in any capacity, I will excuse you from class for the day. Let me know ahead of time if there is an emergency, etc. which requires that you may need to access your phone during class.
- Please allow me a 24-hour e-mail blackout period before the exam. You need to give me proper time to answer your questions while I tend to my other responsibilities.
- No laptop use during class.
- In accordance with FERPA Laws, I will not discuss your grades or your general academic performance with your parents.

SCHEDULE (*I may adjust the schedule as needed*)

	Date	Day	Topic	Assignment
August	27	Mon	Introduction	
	29	Wed	Why Use Statistics?	Read Chapter 1
	31	Fri	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
September	3	Mon	NO CLASS - HOLIDAY	
	5	Wed		Problem Set 1
	7	Fri	Frequency Distributions	Read Chapter 2
	10	Mon		
	12	Wed	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
	14	Fri		Problem Set 2
	17	Mon	Measures of Central Tendency	Read Chapter 3
	19	Wed	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
	21	Fri		Problem Set 3
	24	Mon	Measures of Variability	Read Chapter 4
	26	Wed		
	28	Fri	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
October	1	Mon		Problem Set 4
	3	Wed	Probability and the Normal Curve	Read Chapter 5
	5	Fri		
	8	Mon		
	10	Wed	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	

	12	<i>Fri</i>		Problem Set 5
	15	<i>Mon</i>	NO CLASS - FALL BREAK	
	17	<i>Wed</i>	Review for Midterm Exam	
	19	<i>Fri</i>	Midterm Exam	
	22	<i>Mon</i>	How to Write a Research Paper	
	24	<i>Wed</i>	Samples and Populations	Read Chapter 6
	26	<i>Fri</i>		Read Chapter 7
	29	<i>Mon</i>		
	31	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
November	2	<i>Fri</i>		Problem Set 6
	5	<i>Mon</i>	Testing Differences Between Means	Read Chapter 8
	7	<i>Wed</i>		Read Chapter 9
	9	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
	12	<i>Mon</i>		Problem Set 7
	14	<i>Wed</i>	Chi-Squared Test	Read Chapter 11
	16	<i>Fri</i>		
	19	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	Proposal Due
	21	<i>Wed</i>		Problem Set 8
	23	<i>Fri</i>	NO CLASS - HOLIDAY	
	26	<i>Mon</i>	Correlation/Regression	Read Chapter 14
	28	<i>Wed</i>		
	30	<i>Fri</i>		
December	3	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Computer Lab Day</i>	
	5	<i>Wed</i>		Problem Set 9
	7	<i>Fri</i>	Review for Final Exam	Final Paper Due

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 12th at 1:20 PM