

Sociology 351 (2), Spring Semester 2019

Social Statistics

Class Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:45, CCC 204

Lab Thursday, 4:00-5:50, CCC 307

Dr. Sue Bailey
CCC 464

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and by appointment

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Course Overview

The purposes of this course are to (1) learn elementary quantitative methods used in social research, and (2) acquire knowledge necessary for being an informed consumer of research results. Students learn the appropriate use of statistics as well as their actual calculations. In addition, the lab portion of the course provides hands-on broad experience using a statistics computer package (SPSS) to analyze real data.

Course Objectives

The broad objectives of the course are to:

- Explore the appropriate procedures to describe quantitative data
- Examine the correct methods to make inferences about estimated values and relationships between variables
- Realize the necessary assumptions and requirements for the correct use of specific analytic methods
- Analyze data using a statistics computer package called SPSS

Text

Frankfort-Nachmias C & Leon-Guerrero A. (2018). *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*, Eighth edition. Sage Publications, Inc.

The required textbook is available at the campus bookstore.

Class Attendance

You are required to attend class. I go over the material in detail and give practice problems in class. Missing class may cause you to fall behind. **If you miss class or lab, DO NOT CONTACT ME about what you missed. Ask a classmate. However, I am happy to go over material in my office hours and in lab.**

Class Participation

Class participation is worth **10% of your grade**. Countless research studies on learning have demonstrated that the best way to learn material and instruction is to actually USE it. We will be using the information we read for homework in in-class activities and exercises. I doubt you want me to lecture to you for hours on end, so I plan for input from you and group activities during class time. I will try to make the class interesting for you, but I also ask you to make it interesting for me by interacting about the material.

One quick and easy way to participate is to **bring your calculators to class and help me with the math as I work through problems on the board**. If you come to class and participate regularly (i.e. at least once a week), you will receive an A for the participation portion of your grade.

Exams

There are **three exams** in this class. **None of these will be cumulative**. They will be a mix of short answer and calculation exams with approximately 20 questions each and will cover material from your text, from lectures, and from in- and out-class exercises. Each exam is worth **20%** of your final grade.

Please look carefully at the course schedule for the dates of each exam. **Bring your calculator. NO PHONES WILL BE USED FOR CALCULATIONS DURING THE EXAM.**

There will be no make-up exams without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for missing exam dates.

Assignments

There will be about **8 assignments** for which you will USE the material we cover in class. Collectively, the assignments are worth **30%** of your final grade. I ask that you turn in hard copies of your assignments at the beginning of the class for which they are due. I will grade and give you feedback on your assignments before the next week of class, when we will go over the answers.

There will be ABSOLUTELY NO make-ups of missed assignments without documentation of legitimate emergency reasons for being late.

Grading Scale

93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C

70-72	C-
67-79	D+
60-66	D
0-59	F

The formula I will use to calculate your final grade is:

$$\text{Grade} = (\text{Participation} \times 0.1) + (\text{Homework average} \times 0.3) + (\text{Exam 1} \times 0.2) + (\text{Exam 2} \times 0.2) + (\text{Exam 3} \times 0.2)$$

You will likely be successful in this course if you come to class prepared, participate in discussions, follow the rules for academic integrity (see below), and put thought and effort into your assignments and exams.

Important University and Course Policies and Procedures

Students with Special Need: Students with special needs as documented by the Office of Disability Services should identify themselves at the beginning of the term. The Department of Sociology and Social Work is dedicated to providing these students with the necessary academic adjustments and auxiliary aids to facilitate their participation and performance in the classroom.

Classroom Etiquette: I ask that you arrive on time to class and turn off your cell phones (not silenced but OFF please). I reserve the right to ask anyone texting to LEAVE the classroom. I would prefer that you do not use laptops or tablets in the classroom unless it is a necessary learning tool. If you are talking while I'm talking and it is distracting to me or to your fellow students, I will stop talking until you are done talking. If you have a question, **ask me**.

Contacting Me: Please contact me using the following methods in this order of preference: 1) email; 2) cell phone. I will make every effort to respond to questions that are NOT time-sensitive (e.g., about the course schedule, material, assignments, and similar) within 24 hours. Please only use my cell phone for time-sensitive issues such as last minute emergencies that interfere with your class attendance. **DO NOT CONTACT ME about material covered in a class that you missed. However, I am happy to go over material in my office hours.**

Academic Misconduct: Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. UWS 14 defines academic misconduct as any "action which a student:

1. seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
2. uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
3. forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
4. intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
5. engages in conduct aimed at making false representations of a student's academic performance; and

6. assists other students in any of these acts.”

USW 14 allows for disciplinary sanctions that range from an oral reprimand to suspension or expulsion from the University. You can obtain a copy of the full academic misconduct policy through the Student Services office.

The rules regarding academic misconduct can sometimes be confusing for students, so I encourage you to come talk to me about questionable issues regarding assignments and exams. If you have questions about a particular assignment, you should come talk to me before the assignment is due. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the UW System policy for academic misconduct is not an acceptable excuse for academic misconduct.

If I observe or suspect academic misconduct, I will request a meeting with the responsible student or students, and I will follow the procedures set out in the UWS 14 document.

Course Schedule
Sociology 351 (2) Spring 2019

Date	Topic/Activity	Assigned Readings
1/22-24	Introduction to Statistics	Chapter 1
1/29-31	Organizing Data and Presenting Data	Chapter 2
2/5-7	Central Tendency	Chapter 3
2/12-14	Variability	Chapter 4
2/19-21	Review and First Exam (CH. 1-4)	
2/26-28	Normal Distribution	Chapter 5
3/5-7	Sampling and Distributions	Chapter 6
3/12-14	Estimation	Chapter 7
3/19-21	Spring Break	
3/26-28	Testing Hypotheses	Chapter 8
4/2-4	Two Variable Relationships	Chapter 9
4/9-11	Review and Second Exam (CH. 5-9)	
4/16-18	Chi-Square Test	Chapter 10
4/23-30	Regression and Correlation	Chapter 12
5/2-5/7	Reviews and Wrap-Ups	
5/16	Final Exam (CH. 10 and 12)	
	12:300-2:30 CCC 204	

I reserve the right to change the syllabus due to unforeseen scheduling issues and the pedagogical needs of the class.