

*** **Please read the syllabus carefully. It is a contract of sorts,** ***
*** **outlining your rights and responsibilities as a student in this** ***
*** **course.** ***

Official U of U description: How to present and analyze data relevant to Family and Consumer Studies. Topics include means, standard deviations, T-tests, chi-square, ANOVA, regression analysis, correlations, and computer assignments.

Overview: The goal of this class is to teach you some of the statistical techniques often used by professional researchers. You learn to employ basic statistical techniques in support of a substantive argument; you will also have a better understanding of published quantitative research.

What you'll learn: an introduction to quantitative data analysis.

What you'll get: four credits and fulfillment of a Department of Family and Consumer Studies requirement; the groundwork for a graduate-level introductory class in social statistics (e.g., FCS 5110/6110).

What's expected of you: scalar algebra (i.e., the kind you learned in high school) & reasonable familiarity with computers. Also, please buy a dumb calculator for the exams. Finally, a small flash drive may make some of the computer work easier, but isn't required.

Instructor: Professor Nicholas H. Wolfinger (Nick to you)

Office hours: Tuesday 6:35-7:35, Thursday, 3:30-4:35, and by appointment

Office: 256 Alfred Emery Building

E-mail: Nick.Wolfinger@fcs.utah.edu; I check constantly. Please email me here, not on Canvas.

Phone: (801) 581-7491 (office). I will only be in my office during office hours, so email is better. If you phone my office and I'm not there, I'll receive an email notification. Accordingly, please speak slowly and clearly.

Mailbox: 228 Alfred Emery Building, the Department of Family and Consumer Studies office.

Internet: Canvas, formerly Blackboard Vista, formerly WebCT. I will be posting homework and handouts here. Do not attempt to contact me here--please use my email instead.

Books, & how to read for this course:

A book isn't required for this course, but it's helpful to have one or more introductory statistics texts on hand as a reference.

There is a high quality statistical textbook available as a free download. You should all do so: <https://openstaxcollege.org/textbooks/introductory-statistics>.

Another stats book I like is *Elementary Statistics in Social Research*, 12th edition. Jack Levin, James Alan Fox, and David R. Forde (Pearson Education Inc., 2013). ISBN-10: 0-205-84548-7. Older editions are just fine, by the way. If you do buy this book, I encourage you to buy it used on <http://www.amazon.com> or <http://www.half.ebay.com/>. If you want to obtain it locally, try KSL, <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=13>.

Here are some other stats books that I think well of. Any edition is fine, although other things being equal newer is generally better:

Applied Statistics for the Social and Health Sciences, by Rachel A. Gordon (ISBN-10: 0415875366)

Introduction to the Practice of Statistics, by David S. Moore and George McCabe (ISBN-10: 1464158932)

Introductory Statistics, by Thomas H. Wonnacott and Ronald J. Wonnacott (ISBN-10: 0471615188; older, but still good)

There is something to be said for having more than one stats book. Maybe one will offer just the right book at just the right time.

If you need more information about anything, there are many good resources on the Internet. Wikipedia has good entries on all statistical concepts. Stata commands can be investigated by googling "COMMAND NAME Stata."

I encourage you to read the first two chapters of the free download text. It will provide useful background. Thereafter, consult a text to firm up your understanding of difficult concepts.

Grades: Homework (50%), midterm (20%), presentation (5%), final (25%)

Grades will be curved—but only to your benefit—and based on the following scale:

A	93%+	A-	90%-92%	B+	86%-89%
B	83%-86%	B-	80%-82%	C+	77%-79%
C	73%-76%	C-	79%-72%	D+	67%-69%

D 63%-66%

D- 60%-62%

E <60%

What are these things I have to do?

Homework: The class is divided into modules. With each module, there's a homework assignment. The homework will be completed on Canvas. At the end of the semester I'll drop the lowest homework grade (i.e., you need not complete one homework assignment). Otherwise, no late homework will be accepted. I will not respond to emails on this topic.

Tests: Both exams (midterm and final) will be arranged through UOnline. Please register at <https://uonline.utah.edu/> as soon as possible so you can have your choice of time and location. If you are out-of-area student, please contact UOnline **immediately** to arrange proctoring for your exams. Contact me immediately if you have trouble doing so. I will not be responsive to last-minute requests to arrange testing.

You can take one letter-sized page of notes (double-sided, hand-written or typed) with you to the exams. You should also take a dumb calculator with you. A dumb calculator is one that is limited to addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and square roots. You may not use your phone as a calculator. Each exam will be on Canvas and password-protected. Please present your U student ID when checking in at the UOnline testing site you have chosen at registration. You will have 120 minutes to finish each exam.

You must speak with me before the scheduled date if you anticipate missing an exam. Retroactive (i.e., after the exam) notification is acceptable only if you or an immediate family member is in the hospital or in jail. Should either be the case please provide written documentation.

Presentation: The presentations will begin on Sunday, October 18, and run for the rest of the semester. Sign up on Doodle (<http://doodle.com/poll/qfbm29tdsk4a2gmi>) for your three to five minute presentation. For your security, I encourage you to sign up for a Doodle account (it's free). Submit a video recording to me no earlier than one week before the date and time you signed up for, and no later than that date and time. You can record using your smartphone or a webcam. The easiest way by far to share a video with me is to upload it to YouTube. Make sure you change the privacy settings. I encourage you to set it to "unlisted." This way people will only be able to see the video if you provide its URL. It's a little more difficult to put your videos on Canvas, but I'm game if your presentation isn't in a format that can be added to YouTube.

You will be required to present the quantitative findings from an article in a newspaper or magazine, scholarly journal, or book. Tell me what the article or

book is about, present data, offer your opinion as to whether you're convinced. Presentations are graded on a pass/fail basis; in other words, you need only do one to get all points. I encourage you to submit your presentations prior to the appointed date and time to ensure you do not have technological difficulties. Since you have a week to submit, no late presentations will be accepted.

I encourage you to refer to a figure or table during your presentation. To give me some idea of what these presentations will look like, I will present numerous figures and tables during the first weeks of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1	Introduction, central tendency
Week 2	Visualizing data
Week 3	More visualizing data, lowess
Weeks 4-5	Populations, samples, & the standard error
Weeks 6-7	t-tests
Weeks 8-9	Cross tabulation and chi-square tests
Week 10	Correlation
Weeks 11-14	Regression and extensions
Week 15	Test selection, summary, review

Important dates

Midterm: October 2-8

Final: December 11-17

Software

Most assignments will require the use of statistical software. The software of choice is STATA (www.stata.com). It is available in CSBS lab computers. I encourage you to use it there, as it's less complicated than off campus. You may also access it remotely, at <https://apps.csbs.utah.edu/Citrix/XenApp/auth/login.aspx>. Log in using your University of Utah ID and password. You will be required to download and install the Citrix app. Remote access requires some understanding of computers, so it

will not be supported in by me. Instead, contact CSBS Computing (<https://support.csbs.utah.edu/tiki-index.php>) for access questions; save the STATA questions for me. The campus helpdesk or UOnline may also be able to help you (see below). Finally, you are free to buy a copy of STATA. If you do so, don't get Small STATA. You are free to use any other statistical software, but it also will not be supported.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

In accordance with the University accommodations policy no accommodations for content will be given.

THE RIOT ACT

Academic honesty: All honesty and plagiarism policies established by the University of Utah will be upheld in this class. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, representing another's work as your own, collaborating on individual assignments (except the paper), and submitting the same work for more than one course without the permission of both instructors. None of these actions will be tolerated.

If it is discovered that you have engaged in academic misconduct of any type in this course, the Family & Consumer Studies departmental policy states that you must be given a failing grade in the course and be reported to the Dean and the VP for Academic Affairs, who will keep your name on record. Should you be reported more than once, you may face expulsion from the University.

For further information about the University of Utah's policies regarding academic misconduct, please refer to the Student Handbook.

Scheduling accommodations: You should register only for those courses for which you have no scheduling conflicts that will interfere with your ability to complete course requirements. If you must be absent from a specific class to participate in officially sanctioned University activities (e.g. band, student government, intercollegiate athletics), religious holidays, or other obligations

meeting with the instructor's approval, you will be permitted to make up or otherwise receive credit for missed assignments or exams.

Grade challenges: If you disagree with the way any test or assignment has been graded, you can make a challenge in writing. Challenges must be typed and submitted to the instructor no later than one week after exam/homework has been returned. Your challenge should explain why you disagree with the way the question/paper was graded, and must include page numbers and/or specific references to lecture or text(s) justifying your disagreement.

Equipment and software failure: It is your responsibility to maintain your computer and related equipment in order to participate in the online portion of the course. Equipment failures will not be an acceptable excuse for late or absent assignments. Nor will difficulties with Canvas not directly created by me. You are responsible for making sure your assignments, including attachments, are received before the deadline. If you have technical difficulties, please contact campus helpdesk (801-581-4000, option 1, helpdesk@utah.edu) or UOnline helpdesk (801-581-6112).

General

- 1) Unless otherwise notified there are no extra credit assignments. Please don't ask.
- 2) The schedule of readings, assignments, tests, and topics may change. I will announce any changes via e-mail or Canvas. You are responsible for being aware of them.
- 3) I reserve the right to give pop quizzes at any time.