

Social Statistics

SOC 3112-090 (online)

Summer 2018

4 credit hours

Instructor: Megan Tippetts

Communication method: Canvas email

Office: BEHS 321

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Assistant: Karen Zhang

Communication method: Canvas email

Course Overview

Course Summary

This course meets the General Education Quantitative Reasoning B (QB) requirement and the Bachelor of Science degree Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement at the University of Utah. The goal of this course is to equip students with basic calculation and interpretation skills used in statistical analyses and quantitative social science research. The course begins with a discussion of descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions, graphs, and measures of central tendency and variability. Next, the course offers an introduction to inferential statistics, including t-tests, ANOVA, and chi-square. Finally, the course examines relationships between variables and measures of association, including bivariate regression and correlations. Ultimately, this course will prepare students for an increasingly information-based society by improving or gaining the ability to use data and critically evaluate data. Students will also improve or gain the ability to assess the strengths and limitations of quantitative research and uses in daily life.

Course Objectives

Throughout the semester, this course will address the following Learning Outcomes: Critical Thinking, Quantitative Literacy, and Foundations & Skills for Lifelong Learning. Homework assignments and class work will assess each student's ability to define, calculate, and interpret statistical concepts. At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Critically read and interpret the news and other sources of information
- Explain statistical ideas in the social sciences
- Summarize, compute, and graphically present statistics
- Interpret and compute inferential statistics based on samples
- Apply probability theory to test hypotheses
- Differentiate between various statistical techniques
- Identify appropriate statistical techniques for particular variables and research questions
- Explain basic concepts and interpretations of regression analyses

General Approach to the Course

All materials will be handled via Canvas; all work is submitted via Canvas Quizzes. Homework is open during the week of the given topic. Labs complement lectures and offer experience with statistical software. In addition to chapter readings, PowerPoint lectures, and lectures found through the modules tab, the homework may also be helpful as study material for exams. The use of Canvas Discussions are highly encouraged, as the course material may be overwhelming at times.

Course Materials

- **Required: Social Statistics for a Diverse Society** 8th Edition. 2017. Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and Anna Leon-Guerrero. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. ISBN: 978-1506347202
 - Feel free to get older editions of this book. Save some money. ☺
- Lectures found through the weekly modules are also required.
- PowerPoint lectures found in the Files tab on our Canvas page.
- Basic calculator (with the square root function)

Course and University Policies

- **Late work is not accepted. With a legitimate reason, I will make exceptions on a case by case basis. Arrangements MUST be made with the instructor prior to the due date.**
- Academic Misconduct Statement: Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” More information can be found at <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>.
- Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).
- The Student Code: Students and faculty at the University of Utah are obligated to behave in accordance with the ordinances of the University. The Student Code (or Students’ Rights and Responsibilities) is located on the Web at: <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>. You are encouraged to review this document. All of the rights and responsibilities applicable to both the student and the faculty member will be observed during the semester.

Student Support Resources

Here are the resources available at the University of Utah to support students with specific circumstances:

Wellness Statement: Personal health and wellness are essential to your success as a student. Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-

cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive in this course and at the University of Utah. Please speak with the instructors before issues become problems. And, for helpful resources, contact the course-assigned SSA or the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Americans with Disabilities Act. 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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

LGBT Resource Center: The U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/>. Please also let us know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language. If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let us know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Assessments

Homework (15%): There will be six homework assignments are due on Canvas by 11:59pm on the date they are due, always a Sundays. Each assignment is worth 10 points. Homework questions are adapted from the assigned chapter. Answers will be available the day after the homework assignments are due, thus late work will not be accepted. Further instructions for each assignment can be found in the description of the assignment through the **weekly Modules and/or the Files tab**.

In addition to the six homework assignments, you will have **ONE** quiz on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and a **self-evaluation assignment** at the end. Further instructions on these assignments can be found through the **weeks Module and/or the Assignments tab**.

Labs (25%): To complete labs (9 total), you will need data (provided), access to SPSS (provided) and to download the Citrix receiver.

- **Lab instructions and questions** can be found on our Canvas portal under the **Modules tab**.
- **Lab data** can be found in the **Files tab** in a folder called *Data*.
- **Lab video tutorials** can be found through the weekly modules.
- **SPSS** is accessed remotely via the Citrix receiver, an app that is installed onto your device.
- **Instructions for Citrix setup** can be found [here](#).

Lab questions must be submitted through the **assignments tab** by 11:59pm on the date they are due, **always a Monday**. Contact the College of Social and Behavioral Science Computing [Helpdesk](#) during the first week of class if you encounter difficulties with the Citrix setup process or the

Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) that we will use for labs. Citrix essentially allows access to the CSBS virtual lab.

Exams (60%): Each exam is worth 20% of the grade. The first exam is due **June 11th**, the second on **July 16th**, and the third exam is due on **August 3rd**. Each exam must be submitted via the Quizzes tab by 11:59pm on the date they are due. The exams are online and timed (2.5 hours each) but will be available for one week. Once you begin the exam, you must complete the exam in one session. In addition to readings from the required textbook and the lectures, use the homework assignments as study material for exams.

Extra Credit: up to 15 extra credit points will be available. Details will be announced when the extra credit opens.

Grading Scale

94-100%: A	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	67-69%: D+	<60%: F
90-93%: A-	83-86%: B	73-76%: C	63-66%: D	
	80-82%: B-	70-72%: C-	60-62%: D-	

Grades will not be curved.

See course schedule on next page

Schedule

Note: The syllabus is subject to change. Proper notice will be made on Canvas if any necessary changes occur. Students are responsible for staying updated on Canvas announcements or emails.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Lab/Exam	Homework
Section 1: Descriptive Statistics				
05/14 - 05/21	The What & Why of Statistics	Ch. 1	Lab 1	Quiz 1
05/21 - 05/28	Frequency Distribution	Ch. 2	Lab 2	
05/28 - 06/04	Measures of Central Tendency Measures of Variability	Ch. 3 Ch. 4	Lab 3	Assignment 1 & 2 Due
06/04 - 06/11	<i>Exam 1</i>			
Section 2: Inferential Statistics				
06/11 - 06/18	Normal Distribution Sampling and Sampling Distribution	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	Lab 4	
06/18 - 06/25	Estimation	Ch. 7	Lab 5	
06/25 - 07/02	Testing Hypotheses	Ch. 8	Lab 6	
07/02 - 07/09	Bivariate Tables/Cross- tabulation Chi-square Test	Ch. 9 Ch. 10 (p. 247-363) & Onchiri (2013)	Lab 7	Assignment 3 & 4 Due
07/09 - 07/16	<i>Exam 2</i>			
Section 3: Relationships Between Variables				
07/16 - 07/23	Bivariate Correlation & Regression	Ch. 12	Lab 8	
07/23 - 07/30	Measures of Association for Nominal and Ordinal Variables Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	Ch. 11	Lab 9	Assignment 5 & 6 Due
07/30 - 08/03	<i>Exam 3</i>			Self-Evaluation