

Sociology 3112-001

Introduction to Social Statistics

Fall 2009

University of Utah

MWF 8:35 AM -9:40 AM, BEH S 101

Instructor: Jeremy Marshall

Office: 421 BEH S

Email: jeremy.marshall@soc.utah.edu or through WebCT

Phone: (801) 865-6282 (cell) (801) 535-8153 (office)

Office hours: W 9:30 – 10:30 AM and by appointment (I will be difficult to get a hold of on weekends, and I will attempt to respond to email within 24 hours).

Course website: <http://www.soc.utah.edu/courses/soc3112> (materials will also be available on WebCT)

Course Description

This course introduces statistics as used in the study of social science. Statistics is a set of tools and techniques researchers use to study and describe the world. We will be study descriptive statistics including frequency tables, measures of central tendency, and variability. We will also look at the relationships between variables, including how to measure association and bivariate regression. We will also learn inferential statistics and how to use sample data to draw conclusions about a population.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and explicate the basic statistical concepts of central tendency, measures of variability, measures of association, and hypothesis testing.
- Explain with clear and concise wording random sampling techniques, why they are necessary part of statistics.
- Classify different distributions, noting when it is appropriate to employ them in inferential statistical analysis.
- Evaluate other's statistical analysis, including sample size, inferential techniques, and findings based upon analysis.
- Perform statistical analysis, through both mathematics and through clear and easy to understand wording.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This class uses lectures, as well as examples. This course also includes a laboratory section, which is detailed below.

The Lab is in BEHS 101. Labs are taught at specific times, Monday 11:50am-12:40pm, Wednesday 2:00-2:50pm, Tuesday or Thursday 7:30am-8:50am, or Thursday 5:00pm-6:00pm. You are required to sign up and attend one of these sessions every

week (unless the lab instructor changes the schedule), check schedule and course website for announcements for changes to lab or class schedule. *Please come to the lab section that you have signed up for unless you get permission from the lab instructor.*

There are 10 lab exercises to be completed throughout the semester. They are contained in the lab manual *Exploring Social Inequality with Statistics*, which is available in the bookstore. This includes SPSS software. Please however attend the first lab which is an introduction to the software and data sets you will be using. The data sets are located on the course website under the “labs” link on the left hand side; they should open into SPSS automatically. Each lab is worth 5 points. More information will be provided during the first lab meeting.

Course Requirements and Grading

Due to the nature of the work required, I encourage you to attend every class. In addition to attending class, we will have lab sessions (taught by lab assistants) every week. Not attending these labs will result in a lower grade. You will be graded on three exams during the semester, as well as short quizzes and homework. Quizzes are not done in class –they are located on WebCT. Quizzes will be due on their respective days (see syllabus) at 5:00 pm, although you are free to work on them before that due date. Prior approval is necessary to make up any exams missed. Exams are unique to this section of the course –you will not get credit for taking an exam in any other section. Exams are not cumulative. Homework for each chapter is due the following lecture period following assignment. Late homework will not be accepted, although you are allowed to miss one assignment without penalty. Lab sessions are designed to familiarize you with statistical software, as well as the concepts learned in lecture sessions. The project details are located on a separate sheet, attached to this syllabus. Final grade is based on homework (15%), quizzes (20%), 4 exams (25%), a project (25%) and lab sessions (15%).

If you are having problems with any concepts in the course, please contact me immediately! Do not wait until the day before an exam, because it might be too late!

Required Course Materials

Frankfort-Nachmias, C. and A. Leon-Guerrero. 2009. *Statistics for a Diverse Society*. Fifth edition. Thousand Oaks, California: Pine Forge Press.

Kentor, J. 2004. *Exploring Social Inequality With Statistics*. Thomson Custom Publishing.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

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.

Faculty and Student Responsibilities

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom and laboratory setting, according to the Student Code, located in the Student Handbook. Students in this class are expected to behave in a professional manner, and not engage in prohibited conduct (according to the student handbook, Article XI).

Cheating will not be tolerated on any exams or quizzes. If you are caught cheating –or helping anyone else cheat – you will receive a failing grade for this course. Other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with. All instances of academic misconduct will be referred to the Department Chair or Dean of the College. It's not worth your grade to cheat.

The instructor of this course will strive to create a climate that is healthy to learning and understanding. This includes being flexible about the schedule, learning activities, and student questions.

Note: This syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the student is given reasonable notice of modification, especially when it enhances the learning of the student.