

**SOC 3112-001: INTRO TO SOCIAL STATISTICS  
SPRING 2012**

**UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
TUESDAY, THURSDAY 9:10-10:30 PM  
Jessie Winitzky, M.S.  
BEH 116**

Office: BEH S 415A  
Office hours: After class and by appointment  
Email: [jessica.winitzky@soc.utah.edu](mailto:jessica.winitzky@soc.utah.edu)  
Course website: <http://www.soc.utah.edu/courses/soc3112>

**COURSE SUMMARY**

This class introduces you to empirical methods of social science research. Statistics is a set of tools and techniques researchers use to describe and draw conclusions about the world. We begin by studying descriptive statistics including frequency distributions and measures of central tendency and variability. We next study basic inferential statistics and learn how to use sample data to draw conclusions about the population. Finally, we study ways to describe relationships between variables, including measures of association and bivariate regression.

**COURSE MATERIALS**

Kentor, J. 2009. *Social Statistics*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt.  
Calculator with square-root function

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Class attendance are important components to success in this course. Much of the material encountered can be challenging for many students, and it is crucial to tackle issues before they overwhelm you! Please attend office hours and review sessions at the merest hint of difficulty.

Your grade will be based on the following requirements:

Exams (4).....	30%
Homework.....	15%
Group quizzes (7).....	15%
Labs.....	10%
Project.....	25%
Project plan.....	5%
	<b>100%</b>

- 1) There will be four **exams**, each worth 7.5% of your grade. They will cover material encountered in class, in the text and in lab sessions. They will be a mix of short answer questions and problems.
- 2) **Homework** can be found in the back of each chapter in the text. Assignments are due at the beginning of class in the week following the session in which the chapter was discussed (e.g. if we talk about Chapter 7 on February 28, Chapter 7 homework is due March 7 at the start of class). Homework will not be graded, but turning it in each week is required, as it is a way for you to practice your statistics skills.
- 3) According to recent educational research, learning is most effective when it occurs in groups. You will take a total of seven **quizzes** during the course of the semester in small groups, turning in just one per group. This will also function as an exam review, as both quizzes and exams will be presented in similar format.
- 4) **Labs** will help you conceptualize the abstract ideas you will encounter in a more hands-on way. You will learn how to use the statistical computer program SPSS so that you can handle larger datasets and perform more complex analyses. Completing lab assignments and understanding how to use SPSS are crucial for the completion of your final project.
- 5) The **final project** is the capstone of this class. You will use the General Social Survey or the World Bank datasets to discover and map relationships between two variables. You will write a 3-5 page paper (double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-pt. font, Times New Roman or something similar; length does not include tables/charts) outlining why you chose to study these two variables and going through the five steps of hypothesis testing. We will discuss this in greater detail as the end of the semester approaches.
- 6) The **project plan** is a 1-page outline of which variables you plan to study, why, and which statistical methods you plan to use.

### **LABS**

The lab segment of this course will help you become proficient at performing statistical analyses of large datasets. Labs meet weekly in BEH S 101. Sign up for one of the lab sessions: T or H 8-8:50am, W 8:35-9:25am. If you miss a lab session, you may do the lab on your own and hand it in to myself or one of the lab instructors.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

It should be noted that the following schedule is merely tentative, and may be subject to change.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC/ACTIVITY	DUE
1	10 Jan	Syllabus, etc.	
	12 Jan	Introduction (Ch 1) Collecting Data (Ch 2)	
2	17 Jan	Organizing Information (Ch 3) Central Tendencies (Ch 4)	HW: Ch 1, 2
	19 Jan	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 3, 4
3	24 Jan	Variability (Ch 5)	
	26 Jan	Group Quiz	
4	31 Jan	Exam review	HW: Ch 5
	2 Feb	<b>Exam #1: Descriptive Statistics</b>	
5	7 Feb	Probability Distributions (Ch 6)	
	9 Feb	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 6
6	14 Feb	Estimation (Ch 7) Logic of Hypothesis Testing (Ch 8)	
	16 Feb	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 7, 8
7	21 Feb	Exam review	
	23 Feb	<b>Exam #2: Distributions</b>	
8	28 Feb	Testing the Value of 1 Mean/Variance (Ch 9)	
	1 Mar	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 9
9	6 Mar	Comparing 2 Means/Variances (Ch 10)	
	8 Mar	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 10
10	13 Mar	<i>No class—Spring Break</i>	
	15 Mar		
11	20 Mar	ANOVA (Ch 11)	
	22 Mar	Group Quiz	
12	27 Mar	Exam review	HW: Ch 11, Project Plan
	29 Mar	<b>Exam #3: Hypothesis Testing</b>	
13	3 Apr	Bivariate Tables (Ch 12)	
	5 Apr	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 12
14	10 Apr	Regression and Correlation (Ch 13)	
	12 Apr	Group Quiz	HW: Ch 13
15	17 Apr	Project work	
	19 Apr	Exam Review	
16	24 Apr	<b>Exam #4: Relationships Btwn Variables</b>	Project