

Soc3112-90 Social Statistics (Online)

Fall 2011

University of Utah

<http://uonline.utah.edu>

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Course Summary

Statistics is the science researchers make effective use of numerical data relating to groups of individuals, so that we can describe and draw conclusions about the world. This course introduces students to empirical methods of statistics in conducting social science research. It covers three parts: descriptive statistics, testing hypothesis, and inferential statistics. After this course, you should be proficient in major statistical techniques, you will be able to use SPSS to handle larger datasets and make graphs, in order to analyze and understand diverse social issues. Some of the materials encountered can be challenging for students, and math, formulas, and calculations cannot be avoided, so it is important to make sure that you are not falling behind in our schedule, though an online environment provides a more flexible pace.

More about Online Class

This class is basically running on the platform of Blackboard Vista (also known as WebCT). Every student is expected to take an active role in this setting.

- For general information, check <http://uonline.utah.edu/jsps/students/index.jsp>.
- Blackboard Vista/WebCT is the major platform for this class. Announcements, class notes, discussions, homework and lab assignments, quizzes, exams, grades, etc. are all posted here. Students are encouraged to post questions and thoughts here instead of sending the instructor a private email, so that other students may participate in discussion.
- There is a web component accompanied by Kentor's text at <http://webcom.grtxle.com/socialstats>, where lecture videos are offered and can be very helpful for your to understand course content.

Course Text & Materials

Kentor, J. 2009. *Social Statistics*. Dubuque: Kendall Hunt.

Calculator (with square-root function)

Course Requirement and Grading

1) **Exams:** there will be *three* handwritten exams (calculators allowed), each worth 20% of your grade. They will be a mix of short answer questions and problems. You will be allowed *2 hours* for each exam, proctored at the University of Utah campus or one of its extension sites at Bountiful, Murray, or Sandy. You need first *register* for each exam online, and go to the testing site during the week of the exam. Out-Of-Area students living far away from the above exam locations may contact the

UOnline Exam Coordinator (801-585-5819) and they will help you set up Out-Of-Area Proctored Exams.

- for help to register exams <http://uonline.utah.edu/jsps/students/index.jsp>
- testing centers info <http://uonline.utah.edu/jsps/general/selectMaps.jsp>

2) **Quizzes:** there will be three online quizzes posted on Blackboard/WebCT during the semester. Quizzes are designed to review major concepts, help you practice for exams, and familiarize you with my testing methods. They are open book and open note, and working with other students is encouraged. Students who work in groups can submit one assignment with the names of each student.

3) **Homework:** practicing problems is essential to improve your statistical skills. Every week there will be homework for each chapter posted on the class website, together with the lab assignment. They will not be fully graded, but are part of your final grade and are good for you to practice and prepare for quizzes and exams. Students who treated homework seriously did much better in exams.

4) **Labs:** you will learn how to use the statistical analysis software SPSS so that you can handle larger datasets and perform more complex analyses. Note that students enrolled in the online class are *not* required to attend lab meetings on campus, though you are more than welcome to do so. Instead, you may do the exercises yourself, save your output, and submit them online with your regular homework assignments. To get access to SPSS: you can use the CSBS Virtual Lab, available at <http://apps.csbs.utah.edu>; another way is to use campus computers.

Ordinarily, all homework and lab assignments should be completed by ***Midnight of Sunday***. Your final grade is based on your homework and lab assignments (20%), quizzes (20%), and exams (60%).

This course fulfills the Quantitative Reasoning (QB) or Quantitative Intensive (QI) requirement of the University of Utah.

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.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is a serious offense. The following regarding academic integrity and plagiarism is taken from the University of Utah's Student Code: "Academic misconduct" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes

facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

Course Outline and Reading Schedule

Week 1	8/22-8/28	Chapter 1: Introduction & Chapter 2: Collecting Data	Homework 1
Week 2	8/29-9/4	Chapter 3: Organizing Information	Homework 2
Week 3	9/5-9/11	Chapter 4: Central Tendencies	Homework 3
Week 4	9/12-9/18	Chapter 5: Variability	Homework 4 Quiz 1
Week 5	9/19-9/25	Exam #1	
Week 6	9/26-10/2	Chapter 6: Probability Distribution	Homework 5
Week 7	10/3-10/9	Chapter 7: Estimation	Homework 6
Week 8	10/10-10/16	Chapter 8: Logic of Hypothesis Testing	Homework 7
Week 9	10/17-10/23	No Class (Fall Break)	
Week 10	10/24-10/30	Chapter 9: Testing the Value of One Mean or Variance	Homework 8 Quiz 2
Week 11	10/31-11/6	Exam #2	
Week 12	11/7-11/13	Chapter 10: Comparing Two Means or Variances	Homework 9
Week 13	11/14-11/20	Chapter 11: ANOVA	Homework 10
Week 14	11/21-11/27	Chapter 12: Bivariate Tables	Homework 11
Week 15	11/28-12/4	Chapter 13: Regression and Correlation	Homework 12 Quiz 3
Week 16	12/5-12/11	Exam #3	
Week 17	12/12-12/16	No Class (Finals Week)	