

Sociology 3112 Section 002  
Social Statistics  
Fall Semester, 2011  
Department of Sociology  
University of Utah

**Provisional Syllabus**

Credit Hours: 4

Meeting Times: Lectures Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:10 - 10:30 am  
Students are also required to attend one hour of lab per week. You are required to register for a lab time when you register for the course

Location: Lectures [BEH S 116](#)  
Labs [BEH S 101](#)

**Instructor:**

Michael S. Hollingshaus  
Department of Sociology  
University of Utah

**Contact:**

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*Office:* [BEH S 328](#)

Office Hours:

To Be Determined

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course teaches basic statistical concepts and techniques in the context of social science research. Statistics is a set of tools and techniques researchers use to describe and draw conclusions about the world. In the first part of the class we study descriptive statistics including frequency distributions, and measures of central tendency and variability. In the second part of the class we will study basic inferential statistics and learn how to use sample data to draw well-reasoned conclusions about one or more populations. Finally, we study ways to describe relationships between variables, including measures of association and bivariate regression. The goal is that students will learn how to construct and interpret descriptive statistics and how to make statistical inferences.

**PREREQUISITES**

The instructor assumes each student has passed these courses

- SOC 1010
- MATH 1010

If a student has not passed both of these courses, that student should contact the instructor for permission to enter the course.

**EVALUATION METHODS & CRITERIA**

Your final grade will be based on exams, quizzes, homework, and lab performance.

Final Points will be calculated as follows:

3 Exams	300 Points (100 each)
Quizzes	75 Points
Lab Performance	75 Points
Homework Assignments	50 Points
<i>Total</i>	<i>500 Points</i>

**Grading Scale**

A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	E	0-59.9%

Prior approval is necessary to miss an exam and will only be given in extreme cases. Exams and quizzes are unique to each section of this course. You will receive no credit for taking quizzes or exams from a section in which you are not officially enrolled. Attendance is perhaps even more important for this course than for others. To encourage class attendance, there will be several unannounced quizzes during the semester. No makeup quizzes will be given, but I will drop your lowest quiz grade. Homework for each chapter will be announced in class and will be due in one week after it is announced. No late homework will be accepted, although you may miss one homework assignment without penalty.

**Labs**

This course has a lab component. The lab is designed for you to practice statistical analysis using computer software. You will learn the mechanics of using SPSS to solve problems related to topics covered in the class. In your first class you will be required to sign up for ONE hour of lab time per week:

- Mon 7:30 – 8:20 am,
- Mon 10:45 – 11:35 am,
- Wed 10:45 – 11:35 am,
- Thursday 8:00 – 8:50 am, or
- Thursday 5:00 – 5:50 pm

## **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

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

A lab manual will be available online. You need a calculator that can do basic calculations as well as logs and exponents. Please bring your calculators to every class for in-class exercises and quizzes.

There are 10 lab exercises to be completed throughout the semester. They are contained in the lab manual. It is especially important for you attend first lab which is an introduction to the software and data sets you will be using. Contact me immediately if you are having difficulty with any aspect of this course. Do not wait until the day before an exam to ask for help! By then it may be too late!

## **ADVICE**

Many of you may feel anxiety a course that involves numbers and equations. It would be dishonest to claim that statistics employs no math, but this course requires only the most elementary mathematics—arithmetic and very simple algebra. Do not be put off by this minimal math: You can do it!

It is a bad idea to fall behind in any course, but this particularly true for this course. Understanding the topics covered in later weeks requires a good grasp of material covered in earlier weeks. Because we have a great deal of material to cover, this course is necessarily fast paced. Attend the lectures regularly and do the homework on time. This is not the kind of course in which it will be easy to bring your grade up at the end of the semester by studying extra hard for the last exam and later quizzes. Just get off to a good start and don't fall behind.

## **STUDENT & FACULTY RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of both students and the instructor to maintain an environment that is safe, respectful, and conducive to learning and critically thinking. Individuals in the course will have different backgrounds and viewpoints. Open and critical dialogue is essential to achieve the objectives of the course; but comments or actions that are hurtful, unkind, uncivil, or intimidating will hamper the learning process, and are not acceptable.

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.