Version 1/12/2009

Social Statistics I

(SOC 345)

Tuesday 4pm to 6:20pm

Credits: 3hrs
Prerequisites: SOC 200 – Introductory Sociology

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Office hours: TR 10:45AM to 12:15PM, W 9:30AM to 12:30PM, and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces you to the basics of social statistics and the use of the statistical software SPSS. You will learn how to summarize and analyze numeric data obtained from surveys, censuses, and other sources. The focus of this course is on understanding statistical concepts and applying statistical methods. It's not about memorizing formulas.

OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to: 1. Explain basic social statistics concepts; 2. Summarize data by using descriptive statistics, tables, and graphs, 3. Test hypotheses; and 4. Use SPSS to enter data and run analyses.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Text: Frankfort-Nachmias: *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*, 4th Edition with SPSS Student Version and Wagner: *Using SPSS for Social Statistics and Research Methods*, (2 Book Bundle ISBN: 9781412953214)

Calculator: Any calculator that includes the functions ( ), x^2, and $\sqrt[2]{\ }$ is fine. Please bring it to every class session. You are not allowed to use cell phones as calculators.

Computer Access: We will use the statistical program SPSS. The recommended text books include an SPSS student version which you can install on your own computer. If you purchase the books without this CD or you do not have a computer, you can use the computer labs at Marshall University.

GRADING

a. Final Comprehensive Exam (40% of total grade)

The final exam covers all topics addressed in this course. It may include short statistic examples, SPSS exercises, as well as short-answer, multiple choice and fill-in-the blank questions.

b. Class participation (20% of total grade)

You need two entries to get the 20%. Typical participation activities are: Demonstration of homework-examples, practical exercises assigned during class, active participation in discussions, and the like.

c. Quizzes (20% of total grade)

You need three positive quizzes to get the 20%. There will be a short quiz at the beginning of each computer lab session. Quizzes can include short statistical examples, SPSS exercises, as well as short-answer, multiple choice and fill-in-the blank questions.

d. Homework (20% of total grade)

You need to deliver seven positive home-works to get the 20%. At the end of each class I will give you a few exercise examples which have to be prepared for the next class. Homework will be collected each week.

e. Extra credits

Additional entries in class participation count as an extra 5%

Grading:

If you have the class participation, quizzes, and homework criteria fulfilled, you are at 60% . You also need to write the final exam in order to get a D, C, B, or A.

Scale:

A=90 to 100; B=80 to 89.99; C=70 to 79.99; D=60 to 69.99; F=59.99 and below

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

All students should be familiar with the university's policy concerning academic dishonesty. This policy can be found on pp. 106 – 109 of the undergraduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_08-09_published.pdf, or on pp. 59 – 62 in the 2008 online graduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/Graduate/S2008/gr_sp08.pdf..

POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, please visit http://www.marshall.edu/disabled or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.

UNIVERSITY COMPUTING SERVICES' ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

All students are responsible for knowing this policy, which can be found on the web at http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/CS/accptuse.asp.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

This course will follow Marshall University's policy on Affirmative Action, which can be found on p. 93 of the 2008-2009 undergraduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_08-09_published.pdf, or on pp. 16-17 of the 2008 graduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/Graduate/S2008/gr_sp08.pdf. Specifically, all students will be afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

Students can find information concerning Marshall's policy regarding inclement weather on pp. 95-96 of the 2008-2009 undergraduate online catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_08-09_published.pdf, or on pp. 23-24 of the 2008 graduate catalog http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/Graduate/S2008/gr_sp08.pdf.

ATTENDANCE, LATE AND MAKE UP WORK

I strongly recommend attending each class. Statistics requires you to gradually but constantly build your knowledge and skills. It is very difficult to catch up once you get behind.

If you miss a class: You need to catch up and prepare for the next class. Having missed the last class and is NO excuse for not demonstrating a homework-exercise example or not participating in a quiz.

Late work will be accepted, with a 20% per day penalty. This includes weekends. Make up work is at my discretion and only possible in case of a university excused reason for absence. Make-up exams and tasks will be different from those given in class.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

You are expected to be on time, contributing to the class by asking questions, participating in class discussions, and working with each other for in-class exercises. Be courteous to student questions, and turn off all things that beep, buzz, pop, crackle or are otherwise annoying, before class begins. If you must have a cell phone to receive emergency calls about children or other family members, see me before class.

COURSE WEB SITE/ EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

We use the blackboard system. CHECK YOUR EMAILS BEFORE CLASS. Any late changes will be announced by email. All email messages will be sent to your MU mail account. Make sure that you forward all emails in case you are using a different account (gmail, hotmail, yahoo, aol, …). Additional course material (if applicable) will be posted at the course web site.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

	Week	Social Stats I T 4-6:20pm	Place
1/13	1	Intro, Survey	SH 530
1/20	2	Frequency, Graphs	SH 530
1/27	3	COMP LAB	LAB, SH 532
2/3	4	Crosstabs, Chi^2	SH 530
2/10	5	COMP LAB	LAB, SH 532
2/17	6	Central Tendency	SH 530
2/24	7	COMP LAB	LAB, SH 532
3/3	8	Variability	SH 530
3/10	9	COMP LAB	LAB, SH 532
3/17	10	T-Tests	SH 530
3/24		Spring Break	
3/31	11	Measures of Associations	SH 530
4/7	12	COMP LAB	LAB, SH 532
4/14	13	Correlation	SH 530
4/21	14	Regression	SH 530
4/28	15	Dead Week - Review	SH 530
5/5		Exam week	SH 530

Literature reviewed for this course:

Aron, Arthur, Elaine N. Aron, and Elliot Coups. 2007. Statistics for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (4th Edition). Prentice Hall.

Blalock, Hubert M. 1979. Social Statistics. McGraw-Hill.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, and Anna Leon-Guerrero. 2009. Social Statistics for a Diverse Society 5th Edition. Pine Forge Press.

Healey, Joseph F. 2008. Statistics: A Tool for Social Research. Wadsworth Publishing.

Kendrick, Richard J. 2004. Social Statistics: An Introduction Using SPSS (2nd Edition) Allyn & Bacon.

Knoke, David, George W. Bohrnstedt, and Alisa Potter Mee. 2002. Statistics for Social Data Analysis (Hardcover). Wadsworth Publishing.

Levin, Jack A. and James Alan Fox. 2006. Elementary Statistics in Social Research: The Essentials (2nd Edition) (Paperback). Allyn & Bacon

Levin, Jack A., James Alan Fox , and David R. Forde 2009. Elementary Statistics in Social Research (11th Edition). Allyn & Bacon

Sirkin, Mark. 2005. Statistics for the Social Sciences. Sage Publications

Stevens, James P. 2009. Applied Multivariate Statistics for the Social Sciences. Psychology Press.