



**Social Statistics**  
**3443, Section 03 & 04 (Lab), Spring 2018**  
**TR 2-3:20 pm CST (4 Credit Hours), CHSS 206**  
**Course website: <http://shsu.blackboard.com>**  
**Instructor: Tze-Li Hsu, Ph.D.**

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### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Sociology Department, CHSS, 2<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 270B2  
Sam Houston State University; Huntsville, TX 77341-2246  
Email: [thsu@shsu.edu](mailto:thsu@shsu.edu)  
Office Hours: TR 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST (or by appointment).

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Christina Ramos  
Students should contact Ms. Ramos via email to schedule tutoring sessions at:  
Email: [cxr059@shsu.edu](mailto:cxr059@shsu.edu)

### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESIGN

Welcome to Social Statistics class! The goal of this course is to make students competent in common statistical methods used by sociologists. Students will be expected to produce and interpret basic models and figures. Upon completion of this course students should be able to...

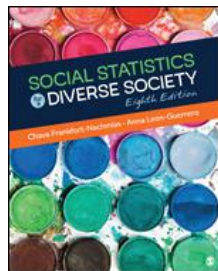
- To gain **factual knowledge** about the terminology, classifications, and methods of statistics used in the social sciences;
- To learn to **apply** course material to sociological questions relevant to existing social science data;
- To introduce SPSS as a tool for statistical data analysis.

### COURSE PREREQUISITES

*You have to email me your introduction email and cc Ms. Ramos by noon, January 19th (Friday) to fulfill the class attendance of twelve days policy.* Students enrolling for this class should be aware of the following:

- You will use basic mathematical operations to calculate statistics and ***factual knowledge of the following is assumed: multiplication, division, addition, subtraction, squares and square roots, and the order of operations.*** Our textbook includes a review of some fundamentals of mathematics (Appendix F, P.383-387), which may be helpful to you.
- Success in this course is dependent on the willingness to ***work through recommended problem sets and seek help*** as necessary

### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:



Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and Anna Leon-Guerrero (2017 Eighth Edition). ***Social Statistics for a Diverse Society.*** SAGE. ISBN-978-1-4833-3354-0. This is the only book required for this course; you will need to purchase this book. The Barnes and Nobel on campus has made special arrangements with the publishing company to offer the book at a discounted price. This is a new book and the bookstore will likely have the least expensive version available. If you prefer, a 180 day subscription to an electronic version of this book is available for about \$61 USD:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/social-statistics-for-a-diverse-society-chava-frankfort-nachmias-v9781506347226> (Please search this link use the **Google Chrome** for VitalSource webpage).

### Student Text Website:

<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/social-statistics-for-a-diverse-society/book249326>

**Calculator:**

To complete the assignments and exams, you need a basic scientific calculator that will let you easily sum, raise sums to powers, take square roots, etc. I recommend the Texas Instruments TI30XA (around \$10). Make sure you have a calculator by the first quiz.

**Software:**

Students must have access to the statistical programs SPSS for this course. Computer labs on campus have SPSS access. Also, please contact IT@SAM Service Desk (936-294-1950) to request the “SPSS home use license” to access SPSS from home immediately. Please get the SPSS access as soon as possible to work on SPSS lab assignment.

\*\*\*Sam Houston State University operates on Central Standard Time (CST) so this course will too. Therefore, all due dates and time windows will refer to CST. Also keep this time zone in mind when sending emails. For example, if you send an email at 11 p.m. from Portland, Oregon (on PST), that’s 1 a.m. CST so you (most likely) will not receive an email until the following day.\*\*\*

**COURSE WEBSITE**

This course will be delivered via an education software called Blackboard. It is important that the students have a computer/laptop and stable internet connection that work properly. For the technical requirements and the specifics about how to get started in the class using Blackboard, please refer to the website “Online Student Orientation” at [https://shsu.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course\\_id= 46061\\_1&content\\_id= 805868\\_1](https://shsu.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/listContent.jsp?course_id= 46061_1&content_id= 805868_1)

It is your responsibility to keep up with the course website. I post announcements, additional readings, handouts, grades, and assignment guidelines there. As soon as possible, log into the course site and familiarize yourself with the content. This also includes keeping track of the gradebook and any missing grades. If you have trouble with the site, let your TA or me know as soon as possible and we can help out.

Students will be informed of the class updates, changes and new developments by means of mass emails and class announcements. **It is important for the students to check the course website and the SHSU email accounts for the updates on “a daily basis.”**

There are also computers in the library as well as the Lowman Student Center. Slow connection speed at home or no connection is not a valid excuse for failing to complete a course requirement on time. If you have trouble with the Blackboard, let me or SHSU Online support know as soon as possible and we can help out.

**SHSU Online Support:**

SHSU Online “Blackboard” will be used to facilitate the delivery of the laboratory component of this course. All required work for this class is available under the Course Modules tab in Blackboard. Note that the modules will be released when they are relevant to material presented in lecture. The Blackboard course associated with the lecture will not be used.

Email: [blackboard@shsu.edu](mailto:blackboard@shsu.edu)

Phone: 936.294.2780

Toll-free: 877.759.2232

**IT Service Desk:**

Location: AB1 Room 145,

Phone: 936.294.1950 (Student line)

Email: [servicedesk@shsu.edu](mailto:servicedesk@shsu.edu)

Live Support: [support.shsu.edu](https://support.shsu.edu)

## Lecture Notes:

In addition to course readings from the textbook, I will upload my own set of notes that supplement and streamline some of the most pertinent information from your text as the semester progresses. Please note, the posted Lecture Notes are **NOT** exhaustive – meaning that these notes will not cover every important aspect of the textbook. Rather, they are intended to provide a supplemental resource to students in addition to the textbook. That being said, relying solely on the Lecture Notes is **NOT** a sound strategy for success in this course. **PLEASE read the text thoroughly!**

## OFFICE HOURS

I and Ms. Ramos will be readily available during the day to answer questions and discuss concerns through email. Unless I am out-of-town, I will typically return emails within 24 hours. Weekly office hours and Virtual Office on BlackBoard are great opportunities to ask questions.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING<sup>1</sup>

Course grades are calculated on a 100 point scale, apportioned across three tests, ten quizzes, eight homework assignments, an online biography, and the Lab assignment.

Three Exams – 15 points (each)	→	45	pts
Ten Quizzes – 2.5 points (each)	→	25	pts
Eight Homework Assignments – 3 points (each)	→	24	pts
Online biography – 1 points	→	1	pts
Lab Assignment – 5 points	→	<u>5</u>	pts
<b>TOTAL</b>	→	<b>100</b>	<b>pts</b>

**Grade Chart:** 100-90 – A  
89-80 – B  
79-70 – C  
69-60 – D  
59 and below – F

\*Points with decimals will be rounded to the nearest whole number. For example, a 89.5 will be rounded to a 90 while a 89.4 will be rounded to a 89 points.

### 1. Exams

There will be **THREE** exams this semester. Exams are open book, open notes. Each exam consists of 30 to 40 multiple choice questions and Calculation: Part B (40 points each). Each exam will primarily focus on 4 to 5 chapters. It is important to note that some questions in the 2nd and final exams would assume knowledge and understanding of material covered previously. You will find that the material in the course progressively build upon itself such that what you learn from earlier chapters will be the foundation for the later ones. **All exams are time-limited.** Specific dates and times for exams are listed in Class Schedule on Pages 6 and 9. Before each exam, students will be provided with the detailed instructions on how to prepare for and take the online exam. For example, Sample Questions and Practice Problems behind each chapter will be helpful to students' better prepare for the exams and homework assignments.

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<sup>1</sup> Please keep up with the grade book feature on Blackboard to make sure I do not miss entering any grades. Grades are typically posted within 72 hours after the assignment. Any inquiries about missing grades need to be made within a week of the assignment/exam. Inquiries that fall outside of that timeline will most likely not be considered.

Exams must be completed and submitted on the due dates (or the amended due dates if later clarified by the instructor). If an unavoidable conflict with one of the dates exists (e.g., medical situation, job interview, family-related emergency), please contact the instructor before the test is administered. Failure to take an exam on the scheduled dates without making prior arrangements, will result in a ZERO on that particular exercise. Giving a deadline extension is at instructor's discretion with VALID excuse and documentations provided by students. The excuse must be written and appropriately documented.

## 2. Quizzes

There will be TEN quizzes this semester. Quizzes are open book, open notes too. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple choice questions to help student understand the materials in each chapter. Students HAVE TO take the quiz in Blackboard with stable internet access after studying each chapter. The deadline for each quiz will be due by each Friday, and class materials for each week will be available on Monday morning. You will have enough time to study for each quiz, and these quizzes will be helpful to prepare each exam.

## 3. Homework Assignments

There will be EIGHT homework assignments over the course of the semester. Assignments are worth 3 percent of grades each. The homework assignments are designed to enhance students' understanding of the course content and to measure your ability to apply this understanding to real-world problems. Each student is expected to turn in her/his homework assignment on an individual basis in Blackboard following instructions. Refer to Class Schedule on Pages 6 and 9 for the specific due dates for each homework assignment. Three important issues related to homework assignments are discussed and listed below:

### A. Required Format of Homework Assignment Submissions (Note: this requirement was fully addressed in the syllabus and the mass emails sent on January 17th)

Microsoft Word and PDF are the only two formats in which your homework assignments shall be prepared and submitted. You HAVE TO type in your answers in a word file or transformed it as a pdf file. If you are familiar with Microsoft "Equation editor" or "Symbols", you can choose to prepare your homework in MS. Every homework assignment or Exam: Part B (Calculation) should be type in and submit it through BlackBoard. When you scan your work, make sure you save it into ONE PDF file, not in JPG or other image formats. **You have enough time to work on homework assignments, and all materials are available on the FIRST day of each week.** The image-format files such as JPG and JPEG inserted into a Word document will not be considered as one of the required formats. Homework submissions prepared in the formats other than the MS or PDF described above will automatically result in a grade of zero.

### B. Homework Assignment Submission:

The due time and days of your homework assignments are always by 11:59:00pm (CST) on Sundays. Homework must be submitted online; email submission **will not be accepted** except in cases of emergency or tech problem. Every student has several opportunities to submit your homework online. Before the online submission, please double check to make sure that the version to be submitted is correct and final. It is suggested that you submit your work at least one hour prior to the deadline to avoid tech problem occurs at the time of your submission. Late submission **will NOT be accepted** except in an emergency. If a genuine emergency exists, please inform the instructor and cc your mentor by email immediately. The situation related to the emergency must be written and appropriately documented. Giving a deadline extension is at instructor's discretion with valid excuse provided by students.

In case you encounter a tech problem that precludes you from submitting your work, do the following two things:

**First**, take a photo of your computer screen that shows the error message. Write an email and attach the photo of the error message to the instructor AND the mentor immediately.

**Second**, call the SHSU Online Support Desk immediately and carefully document the information about the call (e.g., the specific time the call is made, the name of the technician you speak to, the type of tech problem you are told, the length of your call). So the instructor and mentor can verify the information with the technician(s) in order to consider a proper solution for the situation if the tech problem is not solved.

Please be noted that this 2-step strategy described above is also applied to the tech-problem situations in the three exams.

### **C. Be aware of the service hours by the SHSU Online Support Desk.**

The contact of the SHSU Online Support Desk are listed on page 2. If you choose to watch the videos or do your homework assignments outside of the hours of their service, you will be responsible for any inconvenience caused by the potential tech problem(s) of your computer/laptop or internet. It is highly recommended to work on the course within the service hours of the Support Desk, so you can receive the technical support right away if needed.

### **Laboratory Assignment:**

The Laboratory component of this course is entirely online. For each chapter there is a “Exercises” that is comprised of the SPSS procedures demonstrated in the textbook and video tutorials on Blackboard. With the exception of a couple of chapters, videos will demonstrate the use of the SPSS program in the context of the material for that chapter. Students will then use SPSS to answer this LAB assignment. This assignment is worth 5 points.

### **Late Work:**

I DO NOT accept late work. Assignments and quizzes will be listed at the scheduled time.

**Assignments and quizzes cannot be made up** since all materials will be available of the FIRST day of each week. Therefore, students have enough time to complete materials studying and all class requirements. I highly suggest that you spend time on class materials and requirements each day about 30 minutes to understand materials and clarify questions of materials and requirements. We have Virtual Office on Blackboard to answer your overall questions to the whole class, and also different Virtual Office for each homework assignment. Please let us know your conceptual questions earlier before the deadline of each homework assignment or exams. It’s hard for us to provide guidance couple hours before the deadline. Therefore, you HAVE TO plan your schedule ahead following the due dates in the syllabus and our weekly announcement email. My late work policy is driven more by practicality than any sort of principle on tardiness. The reason why I do not accept late work, is that it is often difficult to stay organized with grading assignments when they trickle in days and weeks after the due date. If you know that you will not make a class during which there is an assignment due or a test to be given, please let us know ahead of time. You may contact us by email right away. PLEASE keep working with us and check your SAM email regularly.

## **Important Dates**

<i>Assignments and Exams</i>	<i>Date</i>
<b>Online Autobiography</b>	<b>Jan 19 (Friday)</b>
Homework 1	Feb 4 (Sunday)
Lab Quiz	Feb 11 (Sunday)
<b>Lab Assignment</b>	<b>Feb 18 (Sunday)</b>
Homework 2	Feb 25 (Sunday)
<b>Exam One</b>	<b>Feb 25 (Sunday)</b>
Homework 3	Mar 4 (Sunday)
Homework 4	Mar 11 (Sunday)
<i>No Class- Spring Recess</i>	<i>Mar 12-16</i>
Homework 5	Mar 25 (Sunday)
<b>Exam Two</b>	<b>Apr 1 (Sunday)</b>
Homework 6	Apr 15 (Sunday)
Homework 7	Apr 22 (Sunday)
Homework 8	Apr 29 (Sunday)
<b>Exam Three</b>	May 6 (Sunday)
<b>Last Day to discuss grades</b>	May 8 (Tuesday)

**\*Please note that university policy does not allow final exams to be taken at a different time. Make travel plans accordingly. This policy cannot be bypassed.**

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **Email Etiquette & Keeping Up with the Class**

The best way to contact me is via email. I typically respond to emails within 24–48 hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check your official SHSU email account and the Blackboard course site regularly. I will not send any emails to accounts that are not official SHSU email accounts. It is your responsibility to keep up with information posted to the course website, such as announcements, additional readings, handouts, assignment guidelines and your gradebook. During each class meeting, you have assignments due or unit quizzes, so it is imperative that you stay up-to-date by checking your emails and the Blackboard course site. Please log into the course site and familiarize yourself with the content. There is a Bb Student Orientation and Need Help? tabs in Blackboard. Please participate the online Bb Student Orientation to learn how to access to our class website and Blackboard functions.

### **Excused Absences**

The following absences are eligible to be excused, if accompanied by printed documentation: Medical illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and representing the university at official SHSU functions, including intercollegiate club or varsity sports events. Medical illnesses are serious in nature and require continued treatment by medical professionals and/or surgical or other treatments. Colds and fatigue DO NOT qualify as medical illnesses. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness. For absences to be considered as excused, please submit a copy of the obituary, court appointment, jury duty documentation, and/or doctor's note specifying the seriousness of illness/need of continued treatment. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. If you have a chronic illness that could affect your attendance, you may notify me of it at the beginning of class and provide is the written documentations from your doctor or Services for Students with Disabilities at SHSU.

**Printed documentation is required for an absence to be excused.** Writing me an email or text or explaining in person why you were absent DOES NOT constitute sufficient documentation. You must provide me a copy of the printed documentation and keep a copy for your own records. Having an excused absence will permit you to make up a missed exam (**Quizzes cannot be made up**). Please try to schedule a make-up exam within one week AFTER the missed exam. If you miss an exam for other reasons, you will get a zero for that exam. Also, please schedule your non-emergency doctor, dentist, hair, advising, or other appointments outside of class time.

### **Missed Exams and Quizzes:**

All students are expected to take exams or quizzes at the scheduled time. You will have enough time to finish textbook readings and each assignment since all materials will be available the FIRST day of each week. Only students who provide proper documentation of a hospitalization, court appearance, jury duty, traffic accident or other emergency will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be scheduled in the week the student returns to campus. Missing a scheduled make-up exam will result in a grade of zero for that exam. **Quizzes cannot be made up.** It is the student's responsibility to obtain the notes from class PowerPoint slides and lecture notes. If you know ahead of time that you will be busy during that week, please let me know as soon as possible. In this regard, I encourage you to complete textbook readings and class assignments as soon as possible to avoid any issues with blackboard or Internet. Also, PowerPoint slides and the Lecture Notes are the studying guide for required class materials, BUT students have to read the textbook carefully and thoroughly. PLEASE don't skip any part or examples in the textbook. Exercise section behind each chapter will be very helpful to complete homework assignments or exams in this challenging class.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-of-students/index.html>

For a detailed description of this policy, please visit the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

### **Students with Disabilities Policy:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a

disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

### **Student Absences on Religious Holy Days Policy:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

</dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf>

### **Visitors in the Classroom:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

### **Syllabus change policy:**

“Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.” Any changes will be announced in class, via email and on the announcements page of our Blackboard course site. Updated drafts of this document will be uploaded to Blackboard if this occurs. The syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

### **Acknowledgement:**

By signing the attendance sheet of your first class attendance, you acknowledge your understanding of the syllabus and the policies related to attendance, excused absences, and the academic honor code.



## Tentative Weekly Schedule<sup>2</sup>

Date	Course	Reading	Assignment	Assignment2
Week1 (1/17-1/21)	Introduction to course	Syllabus/ Textbook Preface	Email Introduction (1/19 NOON)	Online Autobiography (1/19Midnight)
Unit 1				
Week2 (1/22-1/28)	The What and the Why of Statistics	CH 1		Familiarize BB
			Quiz 1(1/26)	Main and Lab
Week3 (1/29-2/4)	The Organization and Graphic Present. of Data	CH 2		
			Quiz 2(2/2)	HW1(2/4)
Week4 (2/5-2/11)	Introduction to SPSS			<b>Lab Quiz (2/11)</b>
Week5 (2/12-2/18)	Measures of Central Tendency	CH 3	Quiz 3(2/16)	<b>Lab Assignment (2/18)</b>
Week6 (2/19-2/25)	Measures of variability	CH 4	<b>Test1: Part A (2/25)</b>	HW2 (2/25)
<b>2/25</b>	Test 1: Part B			
Unit 2				
Week7 (2/26-3/4)	The Normal Distribution	CH 5		
			Quiz 4(3/2)	HW3(3/4)
Week8 (3/5-3/11)	Sampling Distributions	CH 6		
			Quiz 5(3/9)	HW4(3/11)
<b>(3/12-3/16)</b>	<b><i>Spring Recess for Students and Faculty</i></b>			
Week9 (3/19-3/25)	Estimation	CH 7		
			Quiz 6(3/23)	HW5(3/25)
Week10 (3/26-4/1)	Testing Hypotheses	CH 8 CH 5 to 8	<b>Test2: Part A (4/1)</b>	
<b>4/1</b>	Test 2: Part B			
Unit 3				
Week11 (4/2-4/8)	Bivariate Tables	CH 9		
			Quiz 7(4/6)	
Week12 (4/9-4/15)	Chi-Square	CH 10		
			Quiz 8(4/13)	HW6(4/15)
Week13 (4/16-4/22)	Analysis of Variance	CH 11		
			Quiz 9(4/20)	HW7(4/22)
Week14 (4/23-4/29)	Regression and Correlation	CH 12		
			Quiz 10(4/27)	HW8(4/29)
Week15 (4/30-5/6)	Final Week			
			<b>Test 3: Part A (5/6)</b>	
<b>5/6</b>	Test 3: Part B			

<sup>2</sup> Please keep in mind that the schedule and syllabus is subject to change