

SOCI 3443 Social Statistics
Sections 9 & 10 (lab) Online
Sociology Department
4 Credit Hours
Spring 2018

Instructor: Eugenia Conde, MEd, MSPH, PhD.
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Office hours: Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:30pm (or by appointment)
Course website: <http://shsu.blackboard.com>

Course Description

This course introduces undergraduate students to the basic statistical concepts and methods that are commonly used to answer sociological questions. The students will learn how to apply, interpret, and evaluate descriptive statistics, measures of association, and inferential statistics. Throughout the semester, students will learn the material using web applications, real data sets and statistical software (SPSS). The lectures, homework assignments and tests will focus on training students to have conceptual and practical understanding of the statistical methods they learn in the class. To accomplish this goal, homework assignments will consist of exercises that require students to demonstrate their ability to understand, apply and analyze the material, rather than memorize the concepts.

Objectives

At the end of the semester, students will have learned the skills to accomplish the following objectives:

- Recognize the importance of statistical literacy in their daily lives
- Be able to identify the appropriate statistical method to answer a research question
- Demonstrate the ability to critically analyze the weaknesses and strengths of studies presented in mass media and in the academic setting
- Find secondary data (data that have already been collected) online
- Use SPSS to execute the statistical methods they learned in the class
- Explain the statistical concepts in technical and non-technical terms
- Interpret results and understand the underlying concepts and assumptions

Required Text

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava. *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*, 8th Edition. SAGE Publications, Inc, 2018. Textbook ISBN-13: 978-1506347202

The most affordable option for the book is to rent the eText. Vital Source rents the eText for \$61.00 and you can keep it for 180 days. <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/social-statistics-for-a-diverse-society/book249326> You can also buy the eText at Amazon, Google Play, eBook, or Kobo, but it will be a bit more expensive than renting the book.

Software

This course requires students to use the statistical program SPSS. This software is available on

campus labs. However, students can also buy a 6-month SPSS student license for \$42.99 in the following website: Shsu.onthehub.com Once in the website, follow these paths: Students ---> More Software ---> IBM SPSS Statistics 25 Grad Pack ---> Choose a platform (Windows or Mac)>> IBM® SPSS® Statistics Base GradPack 25 for Windows (06-Mo Rental). PLEASE check the platform and computer requirements for the program prior to buying it. If you cannot use the newest version 24, you can use Statistics Base GradPack 23. Versions 23 and 24 have the same price.

Calculator

Students will need a calculator that has the square root and exponential function.

Additional Readings

Every week, students have to check the Blackboard for additional readings that the instructor might choose to add to the readings list.

Teaching Philosophy

I firmly believe that every college student should have a solid understanding of the statistical methods covered in this class. Some consider statistics as just another form of literacy that we all have to learn. However, I am fully aware that not all students learn the material at the same speed and with the same methods; nonetheless, I am convinced that all students can learn statistics, if they do the work, and spend the necessary time to understand the concepts that they find more difficult

One of my approaches to teaching is helping students understand the importance of learning statistics to make informed decisions in their daily lives. The following are a few examples: 1) understanding polls in an election, 2) determining if a new diet actually works, 3) estimating the risk of a disease, 4) determining the chances of winning the lottery, or 5) evaluating the value for passing or not passing a law, just to name a few.

As part of my philosophy to teach statistics, I make myself accessible to students to help them identify areas that need more attention or practice. I work to make sure students feel comfortable asking questions and sharing if they have difficulties in the class. It is important for me to make sure my students recognize that I teach this class knowing that all students can succeed, and I am available to help them if they need extra help.

However, students taking this class need to be aware that I cover a lot of material, and some concepts are more difficult than others; therefore, this is not going to be an easy A class. All students are expected to work diligently and consistently. This is not a class in which students can wait until the night before the exam to study. Every chapter builds from the previous one; therefore, they cannot stay behind.

My goal and greatest reward is to see students succeed in the class because being statistically literate is as important as learning how to read.

Grading

The final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Number	Type of Task	Number of Pts each	Total
11	Homework Assignments	2	22
4	SPSS Labs	2	8
1	Syllabus Quiz	2	2
1	Anonymous Surveys	2	2
12	Discussions	1/2	6
4	Exams	15	60
			Total 100

Extra Credit:

- 12 Quizzes (1/2 pt each) = 6 pts Maximum
- Responding correctly to questions posted on the Blackboard (.10 pts on the homework assignment)

Letter Grades will be assigned according to the ranges shown below.

- A:** 90-100
- B:** 80-89
- C:** 70-79
- D:** 60-69
- F:** 59 or lower

Homework Assignments, Labs, and Exams

All homework assignments, labs and exams will be open-book and untimed. However, students cannot discuss the content of the assignment with anyone other than the instructor. Failure to follow this rule will be considered academic dishonesty, which will result in disciplinary action. Late submissions will not be accepted. Homework assignments will consist of a few multiple-choice questions, short answers and short essays.

Participation in Discussions

Students will be expected to participate in discussions. I will keep a record of how often each student participates. There will be a total of 11 topics for discussion and all students are expected to participate with thoughtful comments or questions. I reserve the right to decide what is a substantive contribution. If I decide that a comment does not deserve credit, I will let the student know privately, so he or she can make a second attempt.

Responses to Questions Posted on the Blackboard

Students can post questions on the Blackboard. To give students a chance to answer the question, I will respond no earlier than 12 hours after the question was posted, and no later than 36 hours. All students are encouraged to answer the questions. The first student who answers the question correctly will earn .10 points (5%) extra credit in the homework assignment due the first Monday after the student answered the question. I will also accept responses that can expand the answer of the first response.

Make-up Exam Policy

Students will have approximately one week to work on the exam; therefore, I do not foresee the need to request a make-up exam. Moreover, I will not accept late exams. In extreme circumstances, I might make exceptions, provided that the student has evidence that can substantiate his or her circumstances.

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 experience, 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, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

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](http://dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf)

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). 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>

Schedule^a Social Statistics SOC3443 Spring 2018

Week # & Date	Topic	Readings^b & Videos	Book's Quizzes, Test and/or Homework Assignments	Assignment s Due Date^c
Week # 1 January, 17 th to January, 19 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the Class • The What and the Why of Statistics 	1. Read 1.1. Syllabus & Schedule 1.2. Learning Objectives 1.3. Chapter #1 1.4. Notes & Power Points 1.5. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Connect to Blackboard 2. Buy textbook 3. Buy and install SPSS 4. Complete Student Survey 5. Take Syllabus Book's Quiz 6. Participate in Blackboard discussions: 6.1. Greet and Meet 6.2. How to Study Statistics	January, 22 nd
Week # 2 January, 22 nd to January, 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Organization and Graphic Presentation of Data 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #2 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #1 & 2 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #1&2 Book's Quiz ^d (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	January, 29 th

^a Schedule is subject to change

^b This material will be posted on the blackboard every Tuesday by 12:00pm

^c All assignments are due Mondays by 11:59pm

^d Follow this link to access your book's Student Resources <https://edge.sagepub.com/frankfort8e/student-resources>

Week # 3 January, 29 th To February, 2 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures of Central Tendency 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #3 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #3 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #3 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	February, 5 th
Week # 4 February, 5 th to February, 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures of Variability 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #4 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #4 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. SPSS Lab #1 4. Extra-Credit: Chapter #4 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 5. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	February, 12 th
Week # 5 February, 12 th to February, 16 th	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM # 1 Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4) Check announcements for additional material</p>			February, 19 th
Week # 6 February, 19 th to February, 23 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Normal Distribution 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #5 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 1.5. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #5a 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #5 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	February, 26 th

Week # 7 February, 26 ^h to March, 2 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and Sampling Distributions 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #6 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #6 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #6 Quiz on Blackboard (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	March, 5 th
Week # 8 March, 5 th to March, 9 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimations 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #7 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #7 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #7 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	March, 12 th
Week # 9 March, 12 th to March, 16 th	SPRING BREAK			March, 19 th
Week # 10 March, 19 th to March, 23 th	EXAM # 2 Exam #1 (Chapters 5-7) Check announcements for additional material			March, 26 th

Week # 11 March, 26 th to March, 30 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing Hypotheses 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #8 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #8 1. Participate in Blackboard discussion 2. Extra-Credit: Chapter #8 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 3. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	April, 2 nd
Week # 10 April, 2 nd to April, 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bivariate Tables 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #9 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #9 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter # 9 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	April, 9 th
Week # 11 April 9 th to April, 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chi-Square Test and Measures of Association 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #10 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 2. Watch Videos 3. Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #10 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. SPSS Lab #3 4. Extra-Credit: Chapter #10 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 5. Optional: eFlashcards, Web exercises, Study Questions	April, 16 th
Week # 12 April 16 th to April, 20 rd	<p style="text-align: center;">EXAM # 3 Exam #1 (Chapters 8-10) Check announcements for additional material</p>			April, 23rd

Week # 13 April 23 th to April, 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of Variance 	3. Read 3.1. Learning Objectives 3.2. Chapter #11 3.3. Notes & Power Points 3.4. Journal Article 4. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #11 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. Extra-Credit: Chapter #11 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 4. Optional: eFlashcsards, Web exercises, Study Questions	April, 30th
Week # 14 April 30 th to May, 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regression and Correlation 	1. Read 1.1. Learning Objectives 1.2. Chapter #12 1.3. Notes & Power Points 1.4. Journal Article 1. Watch Videos ❖ Check announcements for additional material	1. Complete Homework #12 2. Participate in Blackboard discussion 3. SPSS Lab #4 4. Extra-Credit: Chapter #12 Book's Quiz (Upload your results to the Blackboard) 5. Optional: eFlashcsards, Web exercises, Study Questions	May, 7th
Week # 15 May 7 st to May, 10 th	Final Exam (Chapters 11-12) Final Due Thursday, May, 10th at 11:59pm			May, 10th