

COMS 5332: Statistical Methods for Communication (ONLINE)
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Shuangyue (Shaun) Zhang

Email: shaunzhang@shsu.edu

Office: 322C Dan Rather Communication Building, SHSU Main Campus

Phone: (936) 294-1835

Office Hours: By emails

REQUIRED READINGS

Hinkle, D. E., Wiersma, W., & Jurs, S. G. (2003). *Applied statistics for behavioral sciences* (5th Ed.). Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This online course serves as an introduction to descriptive and some inferential statistics used in communication research. We will cover the first 13 chapters of Hinkle et al.'s book "*Applied statistics for behavioral sciences*." Thus, this course focuses on more applications than calculations, although we will learn some basic calculating techniques. As this is an online course, learning will be achieved mainly through reading your textbook, watching online videos, and doing practice questions. After taking this course, I hope you can:

- 1) Understand the distributions of a data set.
- 2) Know what a correlation and a prediction are, and be able to do simple calculations on correlation and regression.
- 3) Understand the concept of hypothesis testing.
- 4) Distinguish different types of T-tests, and be able to do simple calculations on t-tests.
- 5) Understand the concept of power and sample size.

We will use SPSS to graph and analyze some sample data. Please have the SPSS software installed on your computer. SHSU offers free SPSS installation for students and faculty. Please contact them at servicedesk@shsu.edu or 936-294-1950.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Exams (30% of Grade)

There will be two equally weighted exams: a midterm and a final. The exams are not cumulative. Review and practice questions will be posted one week earlier.

Weekly Assignments (70% of Grade)

For each of the 13 chapters, there will some assignments for you to submit online. Please mark the due dates on your calendar.

Grade Scale

[Final Grades Based on Percentages]

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

CLASS POLICIES

Late or Missed Assignments & Missed Exams

For each day an assignment is late, there will be a deduction in your grade, and an assignment cannot be accepted **48 hours after it is due**. You have one week to complete two online tests. If you miss the test, there will be no make-ups. The only exceptions to these rules are tragic, extraordinary, and totally unforeseen personal circumstances that are convincingly documented no later than 24 hours after the due date.

Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete 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.

Americans with Disability Act:

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 are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. 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 a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays

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. 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. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Instructor Evaluation

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Weekly Schedules

Week	Topics	Due Dates (by Midnight of the Specific Day)
Jan 17-20	Syllabus	Carefully read your syllabus, and have your book ready
Jan 22-27	Chapter 1	Weekly Assignment due by Jan 28
Jan 29-Feb 3	Chapter 2	Weekly Assignment due by Feb 4
Feb 5-10	Chapter 3	Weekly Assignment due by Feb 11
Feb 12-17	Chapter 4	Weekly Assignment due by Feb 18
Feb 19-24	Chapter 5	Weekly Assignment due by Feb 25
Feb 26-Mar 3	Chapter 6	Weekly Assignment due by Mar 4
Mar 5-10	Chapter 7	Weekly Assignment due by Mar 11
Mar 12-17	Spring Break	<i>Have Fun!</i>
Mar 19-24	Test One	Test One due by Mar 25
Mar 26-31	Chapter 8	Weekly Assignment due by Apr 1
Apr 2-7	Chapter 9	Weekly Assignment due by Apr 8
Apr 9-21	Chapter 11	Weekly Assignment due by Apr 22
Apr 23-28	Chapter 12	Weekly Assignment due by Apr 29
Apr 30-May 5	Chapter 13	Weekly Assignment due by May 6
May 7-10	Test Two	Test Two due by May 10

www.shsu.edu/syllabus