

SOCI 3352-001. Social Statistics
Fall 2011
MW 4:00-5:20pm, University Hall 25

Instructor: Chunping Han, Ph.D.
Office Hours: M 3:00pm-4:00pm, W 11:00am-12:00pm
Office Number: 425 University Hall
Office Phone Number: 817-272-3756
Email Address: hancp@uta.edu

GTA: Paige Gabriel
Email Address: brandyn.gabriel@mavs.uta.edu

Course Description

This course introduces descriptive and inferential statistics in the study of social issues. Topics include frequency distributions, measures of central tendency, measures of variability, normal distribution, sampling and sampling distributions, estimation, testing hypothesis, and relationships between variables. We will also cover the basics of using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), a widely used statistical package. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission of the instructor.

This course may be one of the most difficult courses during your undergraduate study and requires your commitment of a lot of time and efforts. Nevertheless, the skills that you will learn are lifelong and will be useful in many situations. You will do well if you complete assigned readings prior to class, attend all the lectures, finish homework assignments in time, and consult with me and the GTA when you have questions.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to: (1) understand and describe basic statistical concepts, (2) identify appropriate statistical techniques for specific social research questions, (3) calculate and interpret descriptive and inferential statistics, and (4) criticize the strengths and weaknesses of existing quantitative research.

Required Materials

- Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and Anna Leon-Guerrero. 2011. *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society* (6th Edition). Thousand Oaks, C.A.: Pine Forge Press. ISBN: 978-1-4129-9253-4.
 - The study website for this textbook:
<http://www.pineforge.com/ssds6e/study/intro.htm>
- A calculator (A calculator with basic arithmetic functions is fine.)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Grading

Attendance: 5%
Homework assignments: 25%
Exam one: 20%

Exam two: 20%

Exam three (final exam): 30%

Attendance Policy: Attendance is particularly important for this course. Attendance is checked every class and accounts for 5% of your final grade. Three free absences are allowed. Points will be deducted after three free absences. It is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from a classmate if you should miss a class. Documentation of evidence of emergency beyond personal control is required if you want to make an excused absence.

Homework assignments: You will be completing about eight homework assignments, which altogether account for 25% of your final grade. Please turn in your homework assignment during class on the due date. The grade for a late assignment will be lowered by 10%. I will only accept the late assignment until the following class. If you do not turn in an assignment by the following class, you will receive 0 for the specific assignment. Exceptions are made only under extreme conditions beyond personal control. A documented proof of the emergency must be provided within one week of the due date.

Exams: Exam questions are based on the lectures and assigned readings. Exam One and Exam Two are not cumulative, and each accounts for 20% of the final grade. Exam Three (final exam) is comprehensive and accounts for 30% of the final grade. Make-up exams are not given unless under extreme conditions beyond personal control. It is your responsibility to present documented evidence of the reason for the missed exam and schedule a make-up with the instructor within one week of the regular exam. Otherwise, you will receive 0 for the exam.

Drop Policy: Census date is **September 12**. If you decide not to complete this course, it is solely your responsibility to officially drop. You will need to see an advisor in your major department in order to drop this class. The **final drop date** for the fall 2010 semester is **November 4**. Failure to do so will result in a grade of **F**.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as its official means of communication with students. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Course-Related Announcements: Course-related announcements are made either in class or via "MavMail." It is your responsibility to check your email regularly. It is also your responsibility to check with a classmate whether you have missed any announcement if you have to miss a class.

Academic Integrity: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form, including (but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected

violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Americans with Disabilities Act: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Student Support Services Available: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline by calling 817-272-6107, sending a message to resources@uta.edu, or visiting www.uta.edu/resources.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

(Subject to change by the instructor according to the need of the class)**

August 29: Introduction to the course; review the syllabus

August 31: Measurement; introduction to SPSS.

- Chapter 1
- “How to Use A Statistical Package” (pages 1-3)
(Online: http://www.pineforge.com/ssds6e/study/resources/92534_SPSSappendix.pdf)

September 7: Frequency distributions. Chapter 2

September 12: Graphic Presentation. Chapter 3

September 14 and 19: Measures of Central Tendency. Chapter 4

September 21 and 26: Measures of variability. Chapter 5

September 28: Review

October 3: EXAM ONE

October 5 and 10: The normal distribution. Chapter 6

October 12 and 17: Sampling and Sampling Distributions. Chapter 7

October 19 and 24: Estimation. Chapter 8

October 26, October 31, and November 2: Testing Hypotheses. Chapter 9

November 7: Review

November 9: EXAM TWO

November 14: Cross-tabulation. Chapter 10

November 16 and 21: The Chi-square test. Chapter 11

November 23 and 28: Measures of Association for Nominal and Ordinal Variables. Chapter 12

November 31 and December 5: Regression and Correlation 3. Chapter 13

December 7: Review

December 14, Wednesday @2pm: EXAM THREE (FINAL EXAM)