CRCJ 5310 Criminal Justice Statistics
Section 001
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice
The University of Texas at Arlington

** This schedule is tentative and is subject to change as the semester progresses

Instructor: Dr. John Rodriguez **Spring 2015 Office**: UH 303 **Classroom**: (UH07)

Office Hour:
Tuesday 8:00am ~ 9:30am

Class Hour:
Tuesday 6:00 pm ~ 9:50 pm

Email: JJRodriguez@uta.edu **Credit Hours**: 3 Credit

Course Description:
This is an introductory statistics course. We will cover univariate statistics, bivariate techniques, and one or two multivariate statistical techniques. The aim of the course is for you to develop basic understanding of the role of statistics in criminal justice research, know the uses of some statistical techniques, and know which types of techniques are appropriate for what types of data. In some parts of the course and for your papers, we will be using the SPSS or R (statistical software packages). We will be covering basics of how to use SPSS/R, but you are expected to learn these software packages mostly on your own and through homework assignments.

General Expectations:
Class lectures are not intended to be your only source of information for this course. It is imperative that you read all the outlined chapters, review these chapters as necessary, and seek other materials that could supplement your knowledge or assist you in better understanding the materials we are covering in class. You are encouraged to form study groups with other members of the class, but you need to work **INDEPENDENTLY** on required tasks such as homework assignments and the final project.

Course Materials:
No Textbook required

Course Requirements:
Grades will be determined by; (i) 2 exams; (ii) 6 assignments; and (iii) Final project. There will be two exams during the semester (noted on the schedule of readings). These will be worth 70 points each, for a total of 140 points. There will be 6 homework assignments, and these will be worth 25 points each, for a total of 150 points.

Exams:
Two exams will be given to evaluate students' progress in this course. The exams may include multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. All exams will cover material from lecture, discussion, and readings. More information will be given before each exam. All students are required to take exams on the dates listed in the course outline. Should an emergency arise that makes it impossible to make it to an exam, you will need to present a documented excuse, written by your academic advisor, indicating the reason for emergency. (140 points)

Homework assignments:
In addition to the exams, there will be 6 assignments and computer exercise that you will need to complete **INDEPENDENTLY**. These assignments are due the **BEGINNING** of the class. Late assignments will be deducted 10 points per day it is late (150 points)

Final project:
Each student is expected to complete a minimum of 15-page research paper (**a collaborative work is not allowed**). This paper should demonstrate what you have learned from the class and is expected to contain: (i) a brief, concise review of relevant literature of not more than 4 pages long; (ii) hypothesis testing (using a dataset you may already have and are familiar with or one that was downloaded from ICPSR) outlining independent, dependent, and control variables; (iii) use of relevant statistical techniques that we have covered in class to test your hypotheses, specifically using univariate, bivariate and one multivariate technique (multiple regression or logit/probit); and (iv) an explanation and interpretation of your statistical results. Since this is a statistics course it is expected that the statistical portion of your paper will be more fully developed. Numbers (iii) and (iv) in the suggested components above should take up a greater proprtion of your paper and you should fully explain what your statistics mean and what you can deduce from them, particularly as they related back to your hypotheses and literature review. Grading will be heavily on this portion of your paper.

NO LATE SUBMISSIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED (150 points) (**Due by 5/5/2015**)
Additional Notes:
Consistently coming to class late, leaving in the middle of lecture, holding private conversations, or sleeping during class are very distracting and may result in the lowering of your final grade in this course. Please follow general rules of courtesy and respect for others during discussion. Cell phones and other electronic equipment must be turned off or stowed away during class, unless permission to use such devices has been granted by the instructor. If you need to get a hold of me, the best way to reach me is through office hour (Tuesday 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm).
Academic Honesty:
Academic dishonesty is described as (i) turn in an exam, paper or project that is not your work; (ii) copy answers from another student's exam or quiz; (iii) have another person take a test or complete assignments for you; and (iv) submit the same paper for two or more classes. Plagiarism is a particular form of cheating that involves representing someone else's work as your own, may include (i) copying sentences or

phrases from the work of another without a citation; (ii) using someone else's original idea without citation; and (iii) failing to reference the source of data or facts. Consequences of academic dishonesty and plagiarism can be severe. It may result in a zero grade in the course and removal from the program. If students are unclear about the Academic honesty policy, you are encouraged to consult the appropriate section in UTA resource.

Americans with Disabilities Act:
The University of Texas at 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 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.

Grading Schema
The following scale will be used for your grading:
Total Points (%) Grade Point
91 – 100 A
81 – 90 B

71 – 80 C
61 – 70 D
60 or less F
Course Schedule:

Date Subject Reading(s)
1/20 Overview Introduction to the course
Review of SPSS/STATA Assigned reading

1/27 Descriptive Statistics (Univariate) - I
Levels of Measurement
Normal and Otherwise Distributions
Assigned reading

2/3 Probability Theory and Probability Distributions Assigned reading

2/10 Univariate Inferential Statistics - I
Sampling Distributions and Population Parameter Assigned reading

2/17 Univariate Inferential Statistics - II
Sampling Distributions and Population Parameter Assigned reading

2/24 **Exam 1**

3/3 **Research**

3/10 Spring Break Assigned reading

3/17 Hypothesis Test – One population means Assigned reading

3/24 Hypothesis Test – Two population means Assigned reading

3/31 Hypothesis Test

Nominal and Ordinal variable(s)
Hypothesis Test – ANOVA
Assigned reading
4/7 Hypothesis Test – Correlation Assigned reading
4/14 Hypothesis Test – Linear Regression Assigned reading
4/21 Hypothesis Test – Multivariate Regression Assigned reading
4/28 Hypothesis Test – Logistic Regression Assigned reading

5/5 **Final Exam/Paper Due**