

## SOC 311 SOCIAL STATISTICS

### Syllabus

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### **COURSE CREDIT:**

Four Semester Hours

### **PREREQUISITES:**

SOC 201 Minimum Grade: C

AND Junior Status

AND MATH 099 Minimum Grade: S

OR MATH 104

OR MATH 106

OR MATH 120

OR MATH 150

OR MATH 155

OR MATH 156

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

#### **Required Textbook:**

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and Anna Leon-Guerrero. Social Statistics for a Diverse Society with SPSS student version 13.0, fourth edition. Pine Forge Press, 2006.  
ISBN: 141291793X

#### **Computer Access:**

Because some of these problems will require the use of the software SPSS that comes packaged with your book, it is imperative that you have access to a computer in which you can install the SPSS Student version.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course presents a general overview of the statistical methods most commonly used in sociology and the social sciences. As a laboratory component, students will become proficient in SPSS, a computer program designed to aid statistical analysis. These skills will enable the student to: read popular applications of statistics in the media with a critical eye; assess the use of statistics in the professional sociological literature; and use statistical tools to answer the sociological questions of interest.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The student will:

- Compute and interpret basic statistics
- Demonstrate proficiency in SPSS
- Determine the correct statistical technique for various data sets
- Use correlations and regressions to describe relationships between variables
- Explain what a sampling distribution is
- Test hypotheses about means, proportions, cross-tabulations and regression coefficients
- Read and interpret statistical information in professional and scholarly publications

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students will be expected to complete a series of problems at the completion of each chapter. Three proctored exams will be administered for this course. At the completion of all assignments and exams, you will be required to submit a statistics project demonstrating your competency working with statistics and SPSS.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

### **Grade Distribution:**

Chapter Assignments	20%
Exams 20% each	60%
Project	<u>20%</u>
Total Points	100%

### **Scale:**

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

## **COURSE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Chapter Assignments:**

Students will be expected to complete a series of assignments at the end of each chapter. These chapter assignments are divided into two sections. You will be asked to complete some SPSS problems and some chapter exercises. Because some of these problems will require the use of SPSS that comes packaged with your book, it is imperative that you have access to a computer in which you can install the SPSS Student version.

Each assignment will be graded on a three point scale. Successful completion and understanding of the assignments will result in a score of three for each assignment. In order to receive a three, the assignment does not need to be error free, just demonstrate a clear understanding of the material and concepts. Assignments in which some basic understanding of material was understood, but many errors exist will result in a score of two. An excessive number of mistakes demonstrating little or no understanding of the material will result in a score of one. Not completing an assignment will result in a zero.

To calculate your assignment grade simply divide the points received by the total points possible and multiply by 100.

### **Proctored Exams:**

Three exams will be administered for this course. Each exam will involve problem solving. Plan for at least two hours with your proctor to take each exam. You will need a calculator for these exams. The tests should not be administered until after all prerequisite assignments have been completed and graded. Completing a test before completing prerequisite assignments will result in a zero for all non-completed prerequisite assignments. You will be allowed to use all completed homework assignments for each exam; the exams are open book and open note.

### **Project:**

At the completion of all assignments and exams, you will be required to submit a statistics project demonstrating your competency working with statistics and SPSS. This project will require you to select three to four variables from the data sets provided with your textbook (GSS or the ISSP) and conduct an analysis of the data. You will be required to provide appropriate averages and variations of each variable. You will be required to provide an appropriate graphic display of the variables. Finally, you will be required to test for a relationship between the variables using the appropriate statistical technique. The project should be about two-four pages with all appropriate tables, graphs, and a written summary of each step in your analysis.

### **Additional Notes:**

The textbook used for this course was selected to provide you with the clearest understanding of statistical techniques while using data that is relevant to a sociology major. All of the data

for this book is geared for sociologists and will help reinforce content material learned in other sociology courses. In addition, this textbook comes with a student version of SPSS, which will enable you to learn the computer software component of this course at your convenience.

All exams will be graded as soon as I receive them. I understand time is important to you, and I will do my best to get results back to you within one week after receipt. In order to be successful in this course, I suggest you pace yourself and create a schedule and timeline that you feel is best suited to your lifestyle and goals. Students who are the most successful in extended studies courses set time aside each week to accomplish specific reading and writing assignments.

Because you will not be supplementing your reading with in-class discussions and lectures, it is vitally important to thoroughly read each assignment several times for clarity and reinforcement. Statistics is a difficult subject and without a professor to demonstrate problems with examples, you will have to work harder to make sense of the material. I will be as available as possible to answer any questions you may have, but if the work becomes too difficult, you may want to consider getting a tutor in your area to help you work through each chapter. Good luck and I look forward to working with you.

**Academic Misconduct:**

Students should abide by all student ethical conduct, especially those rules pertaining to cheating and plagiarism. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Any student engaging in academic dishonesty in this course can expect a failing grade for the course.

**ADA Statement:**

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719.587.7221 as soon as possible.