



ENG 689: Developing a Course in Statistics for Linguists Spring 2013

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Office Hours:

online workdays 10am–10pm

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required textbooks:

- Baayen, R. H. 2008. *Analyzing Linguistic Data: A Practical Introduction to Statistics Using R*. Cambridge.
- Field, Andy. 2009. *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS*. 3rd Ed. Sage.
- Gries, Stefan Thomas. 2009. *Quantitative Corpus Linguistics with R: A Practical Introduction*. Routledge.
- Paulos, John Allen. 1997. *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper*. Anchor.
- *Further texts will be identified and obtained as exam copies.*

Course Description:

In this course we will develop a course in statistics for linguists. We will survey and evaluate existing online and textbook resources and create the syllabus and course materials for such a class. Most existing textbooks on quantitative methods in linguistics are not very accessible or dedicated to a specific software platform (e.g., R, SPSS). In this class we will strive to identify–or create–such materials as will help a graduate student with a background in linguistics, but no active knowledge of statistical methods, appreciate the basic concepts in descriptive, analytical statistics as relevant for work in the humanities, in particular corpus linguistics and computational linguistics, as well as selected issues in heuristic statistics for linguists.

Course Objectives

1. The student will stay current with readings and other assignments, sharing understanding of the material as assessed by weekly discussions and interactions with the instructor.
2. The student will become familiar with basic concepts in statistics through readings from the texts as well as research in the field relevant for linguists as assessed by the course materials selected and created on a weekly basis.
3. The student will be able to create a structured syllabus including the selection, evaluation, and where necessary, the creation of appropriate class materials related to outcomes and objectives for the projected course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

This course consists of a series of activities and assessments to assist in achieving the outcomes and objectives of this course and instructional units/modules. By the end of this course the student will have read several introductory textbooks and additional materials. The student will have discussed the readings, responded to them in discussions, and assessed their applicability to the developed course in statistics for linguists.

Course Materials and Syllabus

The main basis of assessment will be the course materials, organized by week, as a complete course package ready for teaching a graduate course in introductory statistics for linguists.

Student Learning Outcome #1

The student will demonstrate the ability to synthesize ideas pertaining to the course as measured by the discussions and course material evaluations, selections, and creations.

Student Learning Outcome #2

The student will conduct research on the given materials and will present the findings of the research through weekly presentations and discussions. The presentation should be delivered on the assigned date and should include the following elements:

- a substantial overview;
- a reference list (enumerative bibliography, discography, etc.);
- any additional relevant information that is appropriate to the topic.

Grading

Assignment and course grades will be determined by the student's performance on the following assignments:

- Weekly discussions: 50% of total course grade
- Final course package of materials, organized by week, including readings, lecture notes, and activities, and accompanied by a syllabus: 50% of total course grade
- *There will be no extra credit assignments. As a rule, I do not accept late work.*

Scale used to compute final letter grades:

- A: 100-90
- B: 89-80
- C: 79-70
- D: 69-60
- F: 59-0

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Academic Honesty Policy

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not

limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

Attendance Policy

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. Attendance requires more than simply coming to class.

Assignment Policy

I will provide specific details during class meetings and possibly by email. Students must stay current with all readings and discussions. Students must complete and submit all assignments by their respective due dates.

Late Work

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

Drop a Course

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

Incompletes

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

Administrative Withdrawal

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

Email

Students are expected to check their TAMUC email at least once a day.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct* from *Student Guide Handbook*).