



Syllabus
SOC 332 Methods of Statistical Analysis
Spring 2015
Meets M. 4:30pm to 7:10pm
Location: SS 310
Students must also register for lab hours

Professor: Dr. Filip Wiecko

Office: SS 231

Email: filip.wiecko@tamuc.edu

Phone: (903) 468-5493

Office Hours: 10am-4pm Monday and also by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbook

Statistics for The Behavioral and Social Sciences: A Brief Course, 5th Edition by Arthur Aron, Elaine Aron and Elliot Coups

It is absolutely necessary that you purchase the required text for this course. Do not purchase any earlier editions of this text.

Tools/Weapons You will need a calculator for this course in order to complete both homework and exams. You do not need anything too fancy— though beyond the normal numbers and operators it should have at least a square root (\sqrt{x}) button (i.e., no Dora the Explorer Happy Meal calculators). I do recommend using a more advanced calculator with a larger screen that allows you to see what you have typed. We will be doing problems in multiple steps and it will be easier to track your progress with these calculators.

Course Overview

The goal of this course is to enable you to both calculate and interpret statistical analyses within the context of sociological and criminal justice research. The material we will cover is designed to prepare you for more advanced statistical courses (if you so desire), as well as positions outside of academia in the field of criminal justice and social service in general. No matter what career path you plan to take—*everyone* should be able to take away something useful from this course.

Student Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course students will:

1. Understand the basic concepts of statistical research.
2. Be able to choose the appropriate statistical test for a given statistical task
3. Understand the concepts of probability as they relate to statistical analysis
4. Apply basic statistical knowledge to research design and survey research.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Expectations

Your grade will be based on **three exams, 10 (8 will be counted) homework/lab assignments, and a short (2-3 pages) paper**. You are encouraged to maintain a record of your grades throughout the semester. If you turn in an assignment and do not receive it back or have a dispute about the grading, I need to know immediately. I will not entertain any disputes after one week from the time the assignment has been returned to you in class (obviously it is up to you to be in class to pick up your work).

Assignments

Exams : You will have 3 exams during the course (each exam is worth 100 points). The exams, in general, will not be cumulative, however some of the material presented later in the course builds on topics previously discussed. Exams are to be taken on the date listed on the syllabus.

Homework : The goal of homework is to help you practice and keep up with the material. Statistics is like a needy, whiny, attention-craving boyfriend/girlfriend that, when ignored, will make your life miserable. It is extremely important that you keep up with the weekly work in this class. If you can comfortably complete the homework, and practice tests if you so choose, then when it comes time to take the test you should be able to simply replicate what you have been doing. **Homework will be posted in ecollege and the due dates are non-negotiable.** Each homework assignment will be worth **20** points. Each homework assignment will be available on ecollege in plenty of time to complete it. I encourage you to work together in groups on homework assignments. **DO NOT** photocopy someone else's work, copy it word for word, or put multiple names on one paper. All interpretations (i.e., the word parts of your homework) should be your own. This is to make sure everyone is getting the practice and repetition they need for exams and retention in general.

Paper : The paper will ask you to apply one of the statistical tests learned in the last portion of the semester to examine a relationship between variables in your life. Further information on paper requirements will be presented later in the semester.

Overall, your final grade (based on a total of 500 points) will be calculated as follows:

Exam 1 100 pts

Exam 2 100 pts

Exam 3 100 pts

Homework (x8) 160 pts

Paper 40 pts

500 pts

Lab

You all have signed up for lab hours as part of this course. This time will be used to complete your homework assignments and learn how to use statistical software. More information about lab assignment will be announced as we get into the semester.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)

Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

eCollege Access and Log in Information:

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

In this course we will use eCollege to facilitate communication between you and myself. I will do my best to respond to emails within one business day and I will grade your assignments within two weeks of the due date. My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus and I will make all reasonable efforts to be available to you. Simply put, my door is always open but, please make an appointment or show up during the scheduled office hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Make-up Policy

Any make-up opportunities are allowed *only at the discretion of the instructor* and immediate notification from the student is imperative. Obviously, missed attendance cannot be made up at a later date. Late papers will lose **one letter grade for each day they are late**. Plan accordingly. **Note:** University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as: school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service (consult the university catalog for all rules and procedures). All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarceration or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences and decisions regarding such absences are left to my discretion.

Academic Integrity and Dishonesty

I take plagiarism and other forms of cheating very seriously. *All the work you do in this course is to be your own*. I encourage you to study with friends, but be sure that everything you turn in is your own, original work. Regarding references, anytime you use someone else's work and do not accompany it with a proper citation to the author, you have committed plagiarism regardless of whether or not you intended to do so. It is also inappropriate to use your own work for multiple classes and any such actions will be treated just like plagiarism. Do not copy anything off the internet, out of books/articles, from friends, or from any other source or person. This includes direct cutting-and-pasting, summarizing or quoting without citing, and changing the original wording just enough so that you think you can pass it off as your own. **If I find that you have engaged in plagiarism, you will receive an F in the entire course and I reserve the right to take further disciplinary action(s) at the university level. Do Not Do It!**

Students with Disabilities:

I am committed to assisting students with documented disabilities to succeed in this course. 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
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Statement on Student Behavior

As stated in the student handbook: “All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.”
(See Student Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Schedule:

This schedule is **tentative** and I reserve the right to modify it, with notice, as needed during the semester. We will cover the material in the order it appears in your text. My goal is to cover one chapter per week but I am also aware that some concepts are more difficult than others. For this reason I am keeping this schedule flexible to accommodate our needs as they arise. All alterations to the schedule will be announced in class and it is your responsibility to be aware of these changes. Important dates are listed below:

January 19, 2015	Martin Luther King Junior Holiday
January 26, 2015	First day of class—Syllabus and course introduction
March 2, 2015	First Exam
April 20, 2015	Second Exam
May 27, 2015	Third Exam
May 11-15, 2015	Finals Week

The University Final Exam Schedule applies to those taking a make-up exam. The final exam is optional and can serve to replace an exam grade or make up a missed exam.