Psychological Statistics

Course Overview
Statistics plays an integral role in interpreting the results of research. You should exit this course knowing how and when to compute descriptive statistics (e.g. mean, variance, z-score, and correlation), and, how and when to compute inferential statistics (e.g. t-tests, ANOVA) to test hypotheses.

Catalog Description of Course
The logic and methods of descriptive and inferential statistics and their relation to experimental design in psychology are studied.

Requirements
1) The textbook listed in the margin.
2) A calculator (TI – 30Xa or other model pending instructor approval).

Homework Assignments
There will be 21 homework assignments during the semester. These assignments are designed to increase your understanding of the topics being covered and give you the opportunity to apply course material to real world situations.

1. Assignments are to be turned in at the start of class.
2. Assignments should be hand written neatly, with all pages stapled (not paper clipped) together.
3. Show your work when working a problem involving formulas. At the minimum you should show each complete formula in its basic form filled in with numbers, at least one intermediate step, and the final answer.
4. Assignments are due at the start of each class. If your assignment is more than 5 minutes you will receive 0 points for that assignment.
5. Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted.

Quizzes
There will be 10 lab quizzes that will cover material from the textbook and lectures.

Note: There will be no make up quizzes. Students who can
demonstrate a legitimate University-excused absences, religious holiday or major illnesses are allowed to miss one quiz during the term. Their grade for that quiz will be the average of the other quizzes.

EXAMS
There will be three mid-semester exams and one final exam. Exams will be cumulative. On each exam, there will be questions relating to material covered on the previous exam(s). The questions will require not only recognition of concepts and correct answers, but will be designed to test comprehension and application of concepts as well. Material for the exams will be drawn from the text, and the lectures. There will be no make-up exams except as mandated by University policy for University-excused absences, religious holidays and major illnesses. Students should contact the professor prior to the scheduled exam if possible, or within 24 hours of missing the exam due to accident or illness. Students who can demonstrate a legitimate University-excused absences, religious holiday or major illnesses are allowed to miss one exam during the term. Their grade for that exam will be the average of the other exams (not counting the final).

Note: Unless specifically approved by me prior to the exam, use of electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, PDAs, iPods, and the like) during the exam is strictly prohibited and will result in your exam being taken from you immediately.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION
As part of your course requirement, you will need to complete a total of 6 credit hours of research participation. HOWEVER, if you do not have any unexcused no-shows (i.e. you do not show up for a study) you will be required to complete only 4 credit hours. Students who have completed their required credit hours will be allowed to complete additional credit hours for extra credit (not to exceed 10 total credit hours).

Failure to complete the required number of credits will result in the reduction of your final grade by one letter grade. That is, if you have an “A” and do not complete the required credits, your final grade will be a “B.”

You will be able to sign up for various studies through the SONA system. Instructions on how to do this will be provided in a separate handout. Studies are worth different amounts of credit depending upon how long it takes to complete the study. You may sign up for any combination of studies you wish as long as
you complete the required number of credits.

A pre-screening questionnaire is required before participating in many of the studies. You may earn .5 credits by completing the pre-screening within the first two weeks of the semester.

The alternative to the research experiment participation will be to complete an original 2-page article summary for each credit hour. Instructions for completing the alternative research assignment can be found in the docsharing on ecollege. If you choose to do the research alternative instead of the research experiments the article summaries will be due by 11:59pm Friday, May 8th, 2015 and should be turned in to the dropbox in ecollege.

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS AND CLASS GUIDELINES
This syllabus and course description is provided as a general guideline to assist in your planning. Various circumstances may result in changes to the syllabus or course schedule, and such changes are at the instructor's discretion. A reasonable attempt will be made to communicate such changes to students in advance; however, it is the student's responsibility to keep up with such changes.

Students are expected to:
1. Read the assigned material, which includes following the numeric examples closely and writing down questions about anything not entirely clear to you. Reading statistics requires close study and re-reading, not just reading through once as you might an ordinary book. You will also find it helpful to complete the How Are You Doing? sections.
2. Completing the assigned homework problems (and turning them in on time). Statistics is a skill — it is necessary to DO statistics, not just read and understand.
3. Attending lectures, listening closely, asking questions — being sure to have done the reading first. DON'T fall behind!
4. Attending lab sections led by the teaching assistants — be sure to bring questions from the reading with you. This is your chance to get real help with what is not completely clear and to pursue deeply whatever has excited you. (Yes, there can be exciting things in statistics!)
5. Studying for, taking, and reviewing answers for exams.


**EMAIL POLICY**
If you email me and do not receive an email response within 48 hours, most likely, your email was not received. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours on weekdays.

**Students with Disabilities:**
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@tamuc.edu

**Student Conduct:**
A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student’s Guide Handbook,
Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

**Officially Dropping the Course**
Students are responsible for officially dropping themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a performance grade of “F”. The last day to officially withdraw to qualify for a grade of Q is *March 28th, 2015.*