SOCI 3400: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STATISTICS

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Office Hours: W 11-12:00; by appt.

Meeting Times: Lecture:T,th 1-2:30 M 106

Labs: Tues 2:30-3:30 M106 or Tues 3:30-4:30 M116
Computer Lab: PGH 492

 Additional materials will be distributed through BlackBoard

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Develop an understanding of descriptive and inferential statistics
2. Comprehend findings in recent sociological literature
3. Identify and apply the appropriate statistical techniques to sociological questions
4. Develop analysis skills with statistical software

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Sociological research relies on experience with both qualitative (e.g. interviews, participant observation) and quantitative methods (e.g., statistical analyses) to investigate social phenomena. This class focuses on learning quantitative methods for furthering our knowledge about the world around us. This class will help students in the social sciences to gain a basic understanding of statistics, whether to understand, critique, or conduct social research.

The course is divided into three main sections: (1) Descriptive Statistics; (2) Inferential Statistics; and (3) Applied Techniques. Descriptive statistics will allow you to summarize and describe data. Inferential Statistics will allow you to make estimates about a population (e.g., this entire class) based on a sample (e.g., 10 or 12 students in the class). The third section of the course will help you understand and interpret commonly used social science techniques that will help you to understand sociological research.

In this class, you will learn concepts associated with social statistics. You will learn to understand and grasp the concepts, rather than only focusing on getting the correct answers. Students will be expected to answer questions through both numbers and words. In this class, you will learn to interpret sociological research and statistical output (SPSS output) as well as learn to create your own research.
COURSE ACTIVITIES:

Attendance: Attendance to both lecture and the lab section is required. You will be responsible for keeping track of all important announcements and changes to the syllabus. As a word of caution, grades in this class are highly related to classroom attendance and the amount of time spent on the class.

Grades: Grading for this class is very straightforward. Final grades are based on students’ total point score as determined by performance on exams and problem sets. Grades are based on a percentage of 570 points: 5 homework assignments (20 points each; 30 points for last one); 5 lab assignments (10 points each); lab attendance (10 points); 2 mid-term exams (100 points each); and the final exam (200 points). I do not offer extra credit assignments.

Problem Sets: There will be 5 problem sets in the class. Each assignment will be turned in during the Thursday class. Lab assignments are due on the Thursday following the lab. No credit will be given for assignments turned in late. CHEATING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. The Due dates (subject to change) are:

- Thur, September 8
- Thur, September 22
- Thur, October 13
- Thur, October 27
- Thur, December 1

Examinations: There will be three in-class examinations in this course. Each examination is cumulative. Any missed examination will result in a score of 0. I do not give make-up exams. The first two exams are worth 100 points and the final examination is worth 200 points. Exams will be closed book and closed-notes, but I will provide you with important equations and tables. Exams will be held:

- Tues, September 27 Exam #1 In Class
- Tues, November 1 Exam #2 In Class
- Tues, December 13 Final Exam 2:00-5:00

Communication: Email is an official form of communication. You are responsible for checking your University of Houston official email address on a regular basis. To send me an email, please use SOCY3400 as the subject of your email. This can be followed by whatever subject you’d like (e.g. SOCY3400: exam1) but the message must start with SOCY3400. Please do not send email through Blackboard.

Policies for Students with Special Needs: Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, we will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Please call 713-743-5400 for more assistance.
Religious Holidays: Please contact the instructor regarding any conflicts between religious observance dates and course examinations or assignments.

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. I will not tolerate disruptive behavior in course and reserve the right to exclude any student for disruptive behavior (e.g. texting, facebook). Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor requests to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me early in the semester so that I may make changes to my records.

The following behavioral expectations also apply:

- Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and are grounds for failure in this course.
- Cellular phones must be turned off during class time, this includes texting.
- Side Conversations WILL NOT be tolerated. I will ask you to leave class.
- Students MAY NOT pack up early. Class will be dismissed at the scheduled time, unless otherwise instructed.
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<td>Intro/distributions</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Central Tendency</td>
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<td>3*</td>
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**Section 1: Introduction and Descriptive Statistics**

**Section 2: Inferential Statistics**

| 6    | Sept 26         | Probability            | 6        |               |
|      |                 | **EXAM 1 Tues, September 27** |
| 7    | Oct 3           | Sampling               | 7        |               |
| 8*   | Oct 10          | Hypothesis Testing     | 8, 9     | HW 3 (Thur)   |
| 9    | Oct 17          | T-Test                 | 10       |               |
| 10   | Oct 24          | Hypothesis dependent   |          | HW 4 (Thur)   |

**Section 3: Applied Statistics**

| 11   | Oct 31          | Estimation             | 12       |               |
|      |                 | **EXAM 2 Tues, Nov 1** |
| 12*  | Nov 7           | Chi-Square             | 16       |               |
| 13   | Nov 14          | Regression             | 15       |               |
| 14   | Nov 21          | Multiple Regression    |          | Handout       |
| 15*  | Nov 28          | Review                 |          | HW 5 (Thur)   |

**EXAM 3 Tues December 13 2-5pm**

*meet in computer lab PGH 492