Sociology 3112, Social Statistics
Fall 2013
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am-10:15am
Dixie State College of Utah

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Or by appointment

The Course

In this class we will study the quantitative empirical methods of social science research. Sociologists use statistics to describe and draw conclusions about the world. This course will cover descriptive statistics, including frequency distributions and measures of central tendency and variability, basic inferential statistics learning how to use sample data to draw conclusions about the population, and, finally, we’ll study ways to describe relationships between variables, including measures of association and bivariate regression.

Course Objectives

Students completing Social Statistics will:

- demonstrate an ability to identify the ideas, people, and events that are generally thought to be important by sociologists;

- demonstrate an understanding of sociology as a scientific discipline (i.e. the gathering and analyzing of empirical data in a systematic fashion);

- demonstrate an understanding of basic social statistical techniques including frequency distributions, measures of central tendency, and regression analyses;

- demonstrate an ability to apply the above mentioned techniques to actual observations of human interaction and structure.

Text


Evaluation

Grades will be based on 4 exams and weekly homework assignments. The exams are worth a total of 40% of your final grade while the homework assignments are worth a total of 50% of your final grade. Ten percent of your final grade will be based on attendance.

Exams
There will be five exams, one every three weeks. They will be a mix of short answer and problem solving questions. They are worth 100 points each:

90-100 points = A  
80-89 points = B  
70-79 points = C  
60-69 points = D  
Less than 60 points = F  

EXAMS MUST BE TAKEN ON ASSIGNED DATES.

Homework

Weekly homework assignments can be found in the back of each chapter in the text. Each week’s homework assignment is due on the first day of class of the week following the week in which it was assigned.

LATE HOMEWORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every class. Your attendance grade will be based on a straight ten percent scale. If you attend:

90-100% of classes = A  
80-89% of classes = B  
70-79% of classes = C  
60-69% of classes = D  

NOTE: YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE BASED ON AN AVERAGE OF YOUR LETTER GRADES, NOT ON YOUR ACCUMULATION OF POINTS.

ANOTHER NOTE: You must complete all assignments and exams to pass this class.

FINAL NOTE: I reserve the right to (a) adjust individual grades based on my evaluation of your participation and enthusiasm in the course and (b) make changes to the syllabus during the course if I feel it will benefit the class.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE POLICY: Academic dishonesty in any form, including, but not limited to, plagiarism on written assignments, submitting other person’s work as one’s own, and cheating on exams or quizzes will not be tolerated at Dixie State College of Utah.

Teachers at Dixie State College of Utah have the right to manage their classroom environments to ensure a good learning climate.

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone 435-652-7516.
Important class and college information will be sent to your dmail email account. This information includes your DSC bill, financial aid/scholarship notices, notification of dropped classes, reminders of important dates and events, and other information critical to your success in this class and at DSC. All DSC students are automatically assigned a dmail email account. If you do not know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "dmail" for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information sent to your dmail email, so please check it often.

Course Schedule

**Week 1**
- Introduction (Ch 1)
- Collecting Data (Ch 2)

**Week 2**
- Organizing Information (Ch 3)

**Week 3**
- Exam Prep and Review
  - Exam #1

**Week 4**
- Central Tendencies (Ch 4)

**Week 5**
- Variability (Ch 5)

**Week 6**
- Probability Distributions (Ch 6)

**Week 7**
- Exam Prep and Review
  - Exam #2

**Week 8**
- Estimation (Ch 7)

**Week 9**
- Logic of Hypothesis Testing (Ch 8)

**Week 10**
- Testing the Value of Mean/Variance (Ch 9)

**Week 11**
- Exam Prep and Review
Exam #3

Week 12
Comparing Means/Variances (Ch 10)

Week 13
ANOVA (Ch 11)

Week 14
Bivariate Tables (Ch 12)

Week 15
Regression and Correlation (Ch 13)
Exam Prep and Review

Finals Week

Exam #3