

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SACRAMENTO  
Introduction to Statistics for Sociologists

COURSE OUTLINE:

TEXTBOOK

1. Ivy Lee and Minako Maykovich, Statistics: a tool for understanding society, Allyn and Bacon, 1994.
2. Earl Babbie and Fred Halley, Adventures in Social Research: Data Analysis Using SPSS® for Windows™. Pine Forge Press, 1995.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To teach students basic statistical concepts and methods; and,
2. the application of these to sociological research. Course emphasis is twofold: understanding and application
3. Utilizing the computer to help the student in data analysis.

COURSE DIVISION

The course is divided into two major components: lecture and lab. The lecture component is further divided into four parts, with an exam or final examination at the end of each part. Homework will be assigned from the text or other sources and will be reviewed in class. It is important that students complete their homework by the scheduled time in order to understand the concepts involved. The best way to learn statistics is to "do statistics

I. LECTURE TOPICS & READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1 INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS

- A. Background for the study of statistics
- B. Basic Concepts
- C. Levels of Measurement
- D. Frequency Distributions & Organization of Data

TEXT: Chapters 1, 2,.

First Mid-term exam: **September 16, 1999** (tentative)

PART 2 DESCRIBING UNIVARIATE DISTRIBUTIONS

- A. Measures of central tendency
- B. Measures of dispersion
- C. Normal Distribution and Standard Scores

TEXT: Chapter 3,.

Second Mid-term exam: **October 14, 1999** (tentative)

PART 3 DESCRIBING THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN TWO VARIABLES

- A. Bivariate tables: origins, reading, etc.
- B. Concept of association between two variables
- C. Describing association between two nominal variables
- D. Describing association between two ordinal variables
- E. Describing association between two interval variables

TEXT: Chapters 4, 5.

Third Mid-term exam: **November 18, 1999** (tentative)

PART 4 INFERENCE: FROM SAMPLE TO POPULATION

- A. Basic Concepts
  - B. Hypothesis testing with nominal variables
  - C. Hypothesis testing with ordinal variables
  - D. Hypothesis testing with interval variables
- TEXT: Chapters 8 (pp. 265-286), 9 (pp. 295-311),  
Final Exam:

**THE FINAL IS COMPREHENSIVE** with some emphasis on part four.  
Consult the schedule of courses for Final Examination date and time.

II. LAB COMPONENT

This course also requires a two-hour laboratory each week. The purpose of this lab is to introduce the students to micro computers in Sociology . Students will be introduced to the use of SPSS® for Windows™ -- Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. The students will learn to create, redact and transfer files; and program the computer to aid them in the process of statistical analysis.

Computer assignments are given during the laboratory hours and are to be turned in on the specified due date. **LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS AND ONLY FOR SERIOUS AND COMPELLING REASONS.** All lab assignments must be turned in to meet course requirements. Lab work will comprise fifteen percent (15%) of the students' grade.

GRADING: Will be on "The Curve," with the following weights:

Midterm exams (3)	14% (each)
Final exam (1)	40%
Lab	15%
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	100%

OFFICE HOURS

M 9:00-9:50, T 8:00-8:50, W 9:00-9:50, **and & by appointment.**

OFFICE LOCATION  
Psychology 460B

OFFICE PHONE  
278-7578

HOME PHONE  
363-4768