

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(soci.ucalgary.ca)**

SOCIOLOGY 311-01 (Introductory Social Statistics I)

Course Outline, Fall 2011

Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: blackboard.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: Tom Langford
Office: SS 924
Phone: 220-5043

Drop-in Office Hours between September 12 and December 9:

Mondays, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (cancelled on October 10)
Fridays, 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. (cancelled on October 21, November 11 and November 18)

Email guidelines: Please use email to inform me of something important (e.g., you are sick and will be missing the mid-term test), to ask a question that I can answer with a simple Yes or No (e.g., Are we responsible for the correlation coefficient on the mid-term test?) or to book an appointment outside of scheduled drop-in office hours. For more complicated questions and discussions, please speak to me in person.

Teaching Assistants: Ali Kamal and Nilima Sonpal-Valias

Contact information and office hours for the teaching assistants will be posted on Blackboard by September 19.

Classroom Decorum: We should all conduct ourselves in ways that are respectful of everyone else in our learning environment. How this general principle applies to coming to class late, using electronic devices during lectures, chit chatting with the person next to you, attempting to multitask during lectures, etc., will be discussed at our first class and whenever needed throughout the term. As the lecturer, I will let you know (often right on the spot) if something you are doing disrupts my concentration. In addition, since you should be paying attention to lecture material at all times, I will not hesitate to ask you a question coming out of the flow of the lecture, whether you seem to be paying attention or not! Always be prepared to participate since you never know when I will call upon you.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of two introductory courses on the basic statistical logic and techniques which are employed in quantitative social research. Students will learn the material through lectures, readings, problem solving and participation in laboratory sessions. A major objective of the labs is to give each student 'hands-on' computer experience in analyzing sociological data using the latest version of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), namely PASW Statistics 18.

No university-level training in mathematics, statistics or computer science is required to take this course. At the same time, the application of statistical formulae and the interpretation of the results of statistical analyses will be integral components of the course. Therefore, students who have not taken a math course in some time, or who had some difficulty in high school math courses, should make an extra effort to keep on top of their work.

In general, students should be able to deal with the material in this course if they attend all lectures and labs, approach the readings systematically, complete assigned problems every week, and are sure to ask questions on any points which puzzle them. Students will find that the material in this course gets progressively more difficult throughout the term. Consequently, it is imperative that you do not fall behind in your work.

REQUIRED TEXT and STATISTICAL SOFTWARE PACKAGE

Healey, Joseph F. and Steven G. Prus. 2010. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, First Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education. (Bundled with PASW Statistics Student Version 18.0 although a full version of the software is available in the Arts Faculty computer lab, so you do not need to own the student version of PASW Statistics to complete this course.)

LAB PRINTING FEE

Students will be charged a lab fee of \$15 which will cover the cost of all laser printing undertaken in the lab period (Wednesdays from 15:00 to 17:50). This lab fee is mandatory and should be paid to the teaching assistants no later than Wednesday, September 28 at the beginning of the lab. Students who fail to pay the lab fee will not be allowed to use computers in the Arts Computer Lab to complete their lab work.

STUDENT EVALUATION

(1) Three Assignments

(A) Due Dates: Assignments are due on Friday 30 September at 13:00 in class, Friday 4 November at 13:00 in class, and Friday 2 December at 13:00 in class.

(B) Working Time: At least 9 days.

(C) Value: 21% (each valued at 7%)

(2) Two Mid-Term Tests

Mid-Term # 1.

(A) Time: Wednesday 12 October, 15:00 to 17:30 in assigned classroom.

(B) Content: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to Oct. 12.

(C) Value: 15% or 25%, whichever is most favourable to you

Mid-Term # 2.

(A) Time: Wednesday 16 November, 15:00 to 17:30 in assigned classroom.

(B) Content: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to November 16, although the emphasis will be on material covered since the first mid-term test.

(C) Value: 15% or 25%, whichever is most favourable to you

(3) Computer Quiz

(A) Time: Wednesday 7 December, 15:00 to 16:00 in the Arts Faculty Lab.

(B) Content: All computer work covered between 14 September and 7 December

(C) Format: This is the only open book quiz/test in the course.

(D) Value: 4%

(4) Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination

(A) Time: To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Please do not book your December flight out of Calgary until after the Registrar's exam schedule is released. No requests to write the final examination in a special time slot will be entertained.

(B) Content: The final examination is cumulative. You will be tested on all readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises from the beginning of the course until the end, but the emphasis in the final will be on material covered since the second mid-term test.

(C) Value: 25%, 35% or 45%, whichever is most favourable to you

IMPORTANT NOTES

(1) Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to a teaching assistant's attention before the due date of an assignment, a penalty of 10% of the assigned mark per day will be assessed any late work.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write a mid-term test must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. At his discretion, the instructor will transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course, or set a make-up test. Make-up tests must be written as soon as possible at a scheduled Department of Sociology make-up test session. This term make-up tests must be written on Tuesday evenings starting at 5 p.m.

(3) *Deferred Final Exam Form:*

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:

http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

(4) The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course.

(5) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge" (*Calendar 2011-12*, p. 48). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 48-50 of the *Calendar*).

(6) Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades.

1. When students are unable to submit assignments in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to a teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.

2. Assignments will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.). Students who want any of their work returned by mail must supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the instructor. Otherwise unclaimed assignments will be available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

(7) **Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

(8) Academic Accommodation

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

(9) The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections of Soci 311 and to conform to departmental norms.

(10) **Emergency evacuations.** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of the lecture classroom (ES 920), please proceed to the assembly point by the ICT Food Court. When we are in Math Sciences during our Wednesday lab period, please proceed to the Social Science Food Court. When we are in the Arts Faculty Computer Lab during our Wednesday lab period, please proceed to the Professional Faculties Food Court.

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

At the end of the course numerical marks are totalled and a final letter grade is assigned on the following basis:

| Percentage Range | Letter Grade | Percentage Range | Letter Grade |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| 49 or less | F | 85-89 | A- |
| 50-53 | D | 90-94 | A |
| 54-58 | D ⁺ | 95 or higher | A+ |
| 59-62 | C- | | |
| 63-66 | C | | |
| 67-71 | C ⁺ | | |
| 72-75 | B- | | |
| 76-79 | B | | |
| 80-84 | B ⁺ | | |

ASSIGNED READINGS from textbook (Note: approximate completion dates will be specified on Blackboard as we go through the course.)

Chapter 1

Chapter 2, pp. 24-47

Chapter 2, pp. 48-59

Chapter 3

Chapter 4

Chapter 5

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Read the following pages only:

Section 13.1 (pp. 357-58)

Section 13.3 to 13.5 (pp. 362-368)

Section 13.6 (p. 371)

Chapter 14

You are only required to read part of Chapter 14. We will be skipping Sections 14.6 (Spearman's rho) and 14.7 ("Testing the Null Hypothesis ...").

Chapter 15

Read all of Chapter 15 with the exception of Section 15.8 ("Testing Pearson's r For Significance").

Chapter 6 “Introduction to Inferential Statistics” (this chapter provides a springboard to Sociology 315)