

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCIOLOGY 311-10: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STATISTICS I  
COURSE OUTLINE - Spring 2009 (May 14 to June 5)**

Instructor: Dr. Linda Henderson  
Office: SS 903  
Phone: 220-6501  
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm  
or by appointment

Classroom: SS 541  
Classtime: Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs  
8:00-11:00 am  
Lab: M,T,W,R 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Location: SS 541/TriFaculty Lab  
Note: lab fees for instructional  
materials are \$15.00/student

Teaching Assistant: Ali Rezaei

**VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: Lap top computers may only be used in this class with special permission of the instructor. Cell phones and all other electronic devices MUST be turned off and stowed during class. Class attendance is essential for success in this class.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the basic principles and techniques of social statistics used in social scientific research. This is NOT a course which emphasizes mathematics, but one which focuses on the logic involved in selecting, applying and interpreting statistical tools for the kinds of data analyses indicated by specific research problems. This goal involves *thinking* about how statistics fits into the overall process of research design and when and why a certain technique is the most appropriate and/or useful.

**TEXTS**

1. Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and Anna Leon-Guerrero. 2009. *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Thousand Oaks, California:Pine Forge Press.
2. Allison, Paul D. 1999. *Multiple Regression: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks, California:Pine Forge Press.

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Find out more about the U of C Students' Union at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)  
Find out more about the U of C Career Services at [www.ucalgary.ca/careers](http://www.ucalgary.ca/careers)

**Campus SAFEWALK - call 220-5333**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1. The BASICS *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 1*
- what is/are statistics
  - descriptive and inferential statistics
  - the role of statistics in social research
  - MEASUREMENT

### SECTION 2: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR ONE VARIABLE

2. Organizing and Presenting Univariate Data *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 2, 3*
- frequency distributions
  - graphs
3. Describing Univariate Data *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 4, 5*
- measures of central tendency
  - measures of dispersion
  - shapes of distributions
4. Calculating and Interpreting Standard Scores *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 9*

### SECTION 3: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR TWO VARIABLES

5. Nominal and Ordinal Variables *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 6, 7*
- criteria of causality
  - contingency tables
  - measures of association
6. Interval/Ratio Variables *see F-N & L-G - Chpt 8,*
- scatterplots
  - correlation (Pearson's  $r$ )
  - simple linear regression

## **STUDENT EVALUATION**

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Test #1, Thursday, May 21, 2009  | 25%        |
| Test #2, Thursday, May 28, 2009  | 25%        |
| Lab Assignments                  | 20%        |
| Final Test, Friday, June 5, 2009 | <u>30%</u> |
| total                            | 100%       |

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To obtain a passing grade in this course, the following requirements must be met:

1. All lab assignments must be handed in.(i.e., The lab assignments are MANDATORY.)
2. A passing grade on the final exam must be achieved.

University of Calgary regulations (as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar) will apply in the case of plagiarism, missed exams or assignments. Calculators may be used for all tests.

*The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside the instructor's office, from the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to the students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignments.*

## **LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT**

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

Students who achieve overall numerical grades of 95% or higher will have A+ recorded on their official transcripts. Please note that grades in this course are NOT negotiable

NOTE: There will be no class or lab on Monday, May 18, 2009 (Victoria Day).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please see the next page for Department of Sociology Mandatory Information for Course Outlines

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY MANDATORY INFORMATION FOR COURSE OUTLINES

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**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.

**Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a “safe walk” service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

### 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.**

### **Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers and Release of Final Grades**

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of 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 their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor’s office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.