

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

**SOCIOLOGY 311-20: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STATISTICS I
COURSE OUTLINE - Spring 2011 (May 16 to June 29)**

Instructor: Dr. Linda Henderson
Office: SS 903
Phone: 220-6501
Office Hours: Mon. & Wed.
By appointment

Classroom: SS 105
Classtime: Mon. & Wed.
8:00-11:00 am
Lab: Mon. & Wed. 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Location: SS 105/TriFaculty Lab
Note: lab fees for instructional
materials are \$15.00/student

Teaching Assistant: Anne Huizinga

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.

TEXT

1. Healey, Joseph F. and Steven G. Prus. 2010. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, First Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.

*Find out more about the U of C Students' Union at www.su.ucalgary.ca
Find out more about the U of C Career Services at www.ucalgary.ca/careers*

Campus SAFEWALK - call 220-5333

COURSE SCHEDULE

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

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

SECTION 2: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR ONE VARIABLE

2. Organizing and Presenting Univariate Data *see Healey & Prus - Chpt 2*
- frequency distributions
 - graphs
3. Describing Univariate Data *see Healey & Prus - Chpt 3, 4*
- measures of central tendency
 - measures of dispersion
 - shapes of distributions
4. Calculating and Interpreting Standard Scores *see Healy & Prus – Chpt 5*

SECTION 3: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR TWO VARIABLES

5. Nominal and Ordinal Variables *see Healey & Prus – Chpts 12-14*
- contingency tables
 - measures of association
6. Interval/Ratio Variables *see Healey & Prus - Chpt 15,*
- scatterplots
 - correlation (Pearson's r)
 - simple linear regression

SECTION 4: INTRODUCTION TO INFERENTIAL STATISTICS

7. Inferential Statistics: A brief overview *see Healey & Prus - Chpt 6*
- probability theory and sampling theory
 - sampling distributions

STUDENT EVALUATION

Test #1, Wednesday, June 1, 2011	25%
Test #2, Monday, June 13, 2011	25%
Lab Assignments	20%
Final Exam Registrar Scheduled*	<u>30%</u>
total	100%

* The Final Exam could be on June 27, 28 or 29, 2011.

NOTE: There will be no class or lab on Monday, May 23, 2011 (Victoria Day).

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.
3. The lab fee must be paid.

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.

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

OTHER VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Point.

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom (SS 105) please proceed to:

Primary assembly point – Faculty of Arts Food Court

Secondary assembly point – ICT Food Court

Missed, Make-up and Deferred Exams and Term Work

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component 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. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

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).

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects—including 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 research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. 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)

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. Written 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, phone 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.

Student Ombudman

For student concerns please contact Robert Clegg, Student Ombudsman

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Writing Across the Curriculum

"In teaching writing... we are teaching a way of experiencing the world, a way of ordering and making sense of it." (James A. Berlin)

Writing skills are not exclusive to English courses and, in fact, should cross all disciplines. The University supports the belief that throughout their University careers, students should be taught how to write well so that when they graduate their writing abilities will be far above the minimal standards required at entrance. Consistent with this belief, students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their University courses and, where appropriate, members of faculty can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.

"The difficulty is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader but to affect him precisely as you wish." (R.L. Stevenson)

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class *or tutorial*, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant *as appropriate*. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office. *Papers that are slid under the office door of the instructor or teaching assistants will NOT be accepted. Electronic submissions will NOT be accepted. Students will provide one paper copy for each lab assignment.*

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