

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

**SOCIOLOGY 311-20 (Introductory Social Statistics I)**

**Course Outline, Spring 2012**

**Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME**

**Instructor:** Parv Hira-Friesen  
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**Teaching Assistant:** Brittany Gerber  
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**Office Hours:** Mondays 3:00-4:00 pm

**Course Lectures:** Rm MLT 118 (MW 9:00-11:50 AM)

**Course Lab:** Arts Faculty Lab (basement of social sciences building) (MW 1:00-2:45 PM)

**Instructor's Office Hours:**

Tuesdays 9:00-10:00 am or by Appointment

**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 SPSS Statistics 19. 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, 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**

Healey, Joseph F. and Steven G. Prus. 2012. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, Second Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education.

**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 (Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 2:45 pm). This lab fee is mandatory and should be paid to the teaching assistant no later than **Monday, May 14** 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. The lab fee must be paid in order to pass this course.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION**

Test #1, Wednesday, June 4, 2011	20%
Test #2, Monday, June 18, 2011	20%
3 Lab Assignments	30%
Final Exam Registrar Scheduled*	30%
Total	100%

\* The Final Exam will be during the last week of June as scheduled by the registrar.

NOTE: There will be no class or lab on Monday, May 21, 2012 (Victoria Day).

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.

**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.

### **LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>% Range</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>% Range</b>
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.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Class announcements may occasionally be sent out over e-mail. It is your responsibility to ensure that the university has your correct e-mail address and that your e-mail account is in working order. Outside of office hours or pre-scheduled appointments, the best way to reach me is through e-mail. When e-mailing, please put —SOC1 311 in the subject line of your e-mail to help

me reply more efficiently to your e-mails. I will make every effort to reply to your e-mails within 24 hours, but it may take up to 24 hours to respond. I am happy to meet with students, but please observe the following so that I can respond to students in a way that is fair and attentive:

- 1) Except for cases in which I have instructed you to email something, I prefer that you contact me by email for administrative purposes only.
- 2) Students with substantive questions should come to office hours or schedule an appointment.
- 3) If you have questions related to grading or course content, see me during office hours or make an appointment.

### **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.

### **VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**Cell phones and all other electronic devices MUST be turned off and stowed during class. The use of computers for academic purposes is accepted, but please be aware that anything you are doing on your computer (i.e., non-course related work) may be a distraction to those around you and is not acceptable. Class attendance is essential for success in this class.**

### **MORE IMPORTANT NOTES**

#### ***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.

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 her discretion, the instructor may transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course.

#### ***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](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).

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

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

***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.**

***Ethics:*** Human subject research is not required for any component of this course.

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

***Emergency evacuations.*** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of the lecture classroom (MLT 118) or the Arts Faculty Computer Lab during our lab period, please proceed to the assembly point by the Professional Faculties Food Court.

**COURSE SCHEDULE** ((Note: approximate completion dates will be specified on Blackboard as we go through the course))

## **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
- measures of central tendency
  - measures of dispersion
  - shapes of distributions
4. Calculating and Interpreting Standard Scores *see* Healy & Prus – Chpt 4

## **SECTION 3: DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS FOR TWO VARIABLES**

5. Nominal and Ordinal Variables *see* Healey & Prus – Chpts 11-12
- contingency tables
  - measures of association
6. Interval/Ratio Variables *see* Healey & Prus - Chpt 13
- scatterplots
  - correlation (Pearson's  $r$ )
  - simple linear regression

## **SECTION 4: INTRODUCTION TO INFERENTIAL STATISTICS**

7. Inferential Statistics: A brief overview *see* Healey & Prus - Chpt 5
- probability theory and sampling theory
  - sampling distributions