

The University of Calgary  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Department of Sociology

Sociology 315: Introductory Social Statistics II  
Winter 2009

**INSTRUCTOR: Markus Lahtinen**

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Office Hours: Mondays 9:00 – 10:30 or by appointment

Class: Lecture - Tuesday 17:30 – 20:20 in SB105

Lab - Thursday 15:30 – 18:20 in Tri-labs or **ST 126 for midterms 1 and 2**

Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person either in class or during office hours.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS:**

**Annete Tézli**

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**COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

Sociology 315, in tandem with Sociology 311, is designed to provide a working knowledge of basic statistical techniques, and to introduce new Sociologists to the vocabulary of quantitative research, data analysis and scientific thinking. This course is an introduction to multivariate sociological analysis for sociological research. Topics include multivariate tabular analysis, multiple regression and correlation, and related inferential statistics. It is a continuation and expansion of material learned in Sociology 311, which introduces students to descriptive statistics, measures of association and bivariate linear regression.

Sociology 311 and 315 are reputed to be “nightmare” courses. Be advised, this is NOT A MATH COURSE! The focus will be on developing your comfort and proficiency with quantitative research. I am not interested in having students memorize equations, but rather for each of you to achieve statistical literacy and to move yourselves closer to being critical thinkers. Having said that, this course will require effort and students are expected to attend lectures, labs, and keep up with readings.

**\*\*\* Important to this course is the lab sessions in which you will be given an opportunity to apply your knowledge of statistical techniques and learn to use personal computers to analyse sociological data.\*\*\***

**PREREQUISITES:**

This course assumes that you have successfully completed Sociology 311 or have consent from the Department and possess some knowledge of descriptive statistics for survey research (e.g. univariate and bivariate statistics), as well as a basic introduction to bivariate correlations and regression analysis.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias and Anna Leon-Guerrero, *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*, Thousand Oaks, California, Pine Forge Press.

Paul Allison, *Multiple Regression: A Primer*, Thousand Oaks, California, Pine Forge Press.

**LINKS:**

Undergraduate Learning Resources for Statistics:

<http://soci.ucalgary.ca/home/undergraduate-learning-resources-statistics>

Blackboard:

<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> or <http://my.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology Website:

<http://soci.ucalgary.ca/>

Student's Union Social Science Representative:

Email: [soicalscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:soicalscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

**EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

The two midterms will be on **February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009** and **March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, while the final exam will registrar scheduled. These exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, and essay type questions. All material related to the course in terms of lectures and assigned readings are possible examination questions. Additionally, there will be a lab quiz on **April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009** which will test your overall skills and quantitative competency. All material covered in during the labs will be possible examination questions.

**Lab Assignments:**

Since the vast majority of quantitative sociology requires the use of computers, you will become familiar with the procedures involved in such applications. This course, like Sociology 311, will use programs from the SPSS statistical software package and available on the machines located in the Tri-Faculties Lab for most lab exercises. Completed computer exercises must be turned in to the Teaching Assistants by the announced due date. There will be a penalty of 10% per day (of the assigned grade) for late assignments except in the cases of documented illness or extenuating circumstances.

## **Breakdown, Weight and Dates of Student Evaluations**

Midterm Exam #1	20%	February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
Midterm Exam # 2:	20%	March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2009
Lab Assignments:	15%	Various times
Lab Quiz:	20%	April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2009.
Final Exam:	<u>25%</u>	To be scheduled by Registrar
	100%	

**\*\*\* Dates are tentative and may be subject to change as necessary, with the exception of the final exam. \*\*\***

Percentages below indicate the standard required for each letter grade.

A+	97-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	65-69%
A	93-96%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	60-64%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	55-59%
						F	0-54%

### **IMPORTANT NOTES/REGULATIONS:**

1. A student seeking reappraisal of graded exams or lab exercises must discuss his or her work with the instructor within two (2) weeks of the date the exam/assignment is handed back. For lab assignments, please consult with your lab instructor first. Consistent with Faculty of Social Science regulations, the entire exam or assignment will be remarked and the mark may be raised, lowered or remain the same.
2. A student who is unable to write a midterm exam due to fully documented illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction will have the weight of that examination applied to the final exam. No make-up exams will be given.
3. Hand-held calculators are allowed in classes, labs and tests.
4. A \$15 lab fee, payable to the Department of Sociology, will be charged to cover costs related to copying of course handouts, lab supplies, and printing in the Tri-faculties lab. The mandatory \$15 lab fee will be collected during the second week of classes. If this fee has not been paid by Friday January 23, 2009, we will not grade anymore of your lab assignments until the fee is received. Additionally, you will no longer receive handouts and will lose your printing privilege in the lab.

### **Deferrals:**

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 Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

**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:** Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offenses. 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. 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, 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.**

**TENTATIVE CALENDAR:**

*This may be subject to change as necessary.*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
January 12 – 16	Introduction, Measures of Central Tendency, Measures of Dispersion, and Contingency Tables	Text Chs. 1 – 7
January 19 – 23	Correlation, Bivariate Regression & Dummy variables	Text Ch. 8 Allison Ch. 5
January 26 – 30	Multivariate regression	Allison Chs.1, 2 & 4
February 2 – 6	Path Analysis	Allison Ch. 9, section 5.
February 9 – 13	<b>Review &amp; Mid-term #1 in lab</b>	
February 16 – 20	<i>READING WEEK</i>	<i>READING WEEK</i>
February 23 – 27	Probability theory; probability distributions	Text Chs. 9 & 10
March 2 – 6	Sampling and sampling distributions; testing statistical hypotheses	Text Chs. 9 & 10
March 9 – 13	Hypothesis tests and confidence intervals for the mean	Text. Chs. 11 & 12
March 16 – 20	<b>Review &amp; Mid-term #2 in lab</b>	
March 23 – 27	Regression Assumptions and analysis of residuals.	Allison Chs. 6, 7 & 8.
March 30 – April 3	Inferences about differences in means and correlation	
April 6 – 10	Anova	Text Ch. 14
April 13 – 17	<b>Review &amp; Lab Quiz</b>	