



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts

Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology 611

Social Statistics: The General Linear Model

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| • Fall 2018 | • W 9:00-11:45 F 9:00-11:45 | • SS 921 |
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Instructor: Josh P. Curtis

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TA Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-12:30

Course Description and Objective

This course covers the fundamentals of multiple regression, with a focus on the ordinary least squares (OLS) regression model. It also includes an introduction to more complex linear regression models, including models with limited dependent variables (e.g. logistic regression) and maximum likelihood estimation. Relevance for sociological research is discussed through examples drawn from the literature and the professor's own research. The course also includes a laboratory component where students will have opportunities to apply the techniques learned in class. The software Stata is used for the laboratory component of the course. This course is intended to provide students with the statistical skills to (1) successfully complete a quantitative Master's thesis, (2) understand and critique the wider sociological literature, (3) be prepared for more advanced courses (including SOCI 711). At the end of this course, students should have knowledge and understanding of the way sociologists use multivariate methods to answer research questions about direct associations, moderation, and mediation, including ruling out spuriousness through observed controls. Students should also have mastery of the assumptions of the OLS regression model, as well as how to test these assumptions. Moreover,

students should be aware of how to address variables that are dichotomous, in the cases of when these variables are either predictors or outcomes.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

- Mehmetoglu, Mehmet and Tor Georg Jakobsen. 2017. *Applied Statistics Using Stata: A Guide for the Social Sciences*. London: Sage Publications Ltd. (to be purchased in the bookstore).
- Linneman, Thomas J. 2014. *Social Statistics: Managing Data, Conducting Analyses, Presenting Results, 2nd Edition*. New York: Routledge. (chapter photocopies will be provided).

Methods of Evaluation

Assignments (2 x 15): 30%
Exams (2 x 20): 40%
Final Paper: 30%

- **Assignment #1:** Friday, September 28th.
- **Midterm #1:** Wednesday, October 3rd.
- **Assignment #2:** Friday, November 9th.
- **Midterm #2:** Wednesday, November 21st.
- **Final Paper:** Monday, December 17th.
- **UCISS Final Paper Presentation (January 2019).**

Grading Scale

Grade	Percent Range	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	95-100	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	90-94	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	85-89	3.70	Very good performance
B+	80-84	3.30	Good performance
B	75-79	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	70-74	2.70	Minimum pass
C+	67-69	2.30	Failure. All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure and will not count toward graduate program requirements.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Reading assignments will be given out over email as the class progresses. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the reading assignments.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the professional faculties food court.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 Faculty 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

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

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

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

Student Representation

The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)