

**SOCIOLOGY 2205a**  
**Statistics for Sociology**  
**Fall 2016**

**Section 003: Sept. – Dec. 2016**

**Classes: Wednesdays 2:30-5:20 PM                      Room: 3026 SSC.**

**Instructor: W. Marshall**

**Office Hours: Mon. 2:30 - 4 PM (other times by appointment)**

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**Course Description:**

Inquiry in Sociology consists of theory, research methodology and statistics. The Department of Sociology requires that all Sociology majors be exposed to all three topics and Sociology 2205 is the introductory course in the statistics area. In this course students will discover how one analyzes the information obtained from the various quantitative methodological techniques. Mandatory for students registered in Year 2 of an [Honors Specialization](#) offered through the Dept. of Sociology.

The course can be divided into 2 major topics:

- (1) We begin with descriptive statistics. This includes a review of elementary mathematical concepts, the construction and interpretation of tables and graphs, as well as the calculation of measures of central tendency and dispersion.

(NB. While this course does not require a high level of math ability, it is expected that the students understand basic mathematical operations, and that they can operate a calculator.

Any student who is concerned about this part of the course should speak to the professor, and/or the teaching assistant ASAP.)

(2) The remainder of the course will be devoted to inferential statistics, i.e. how well can statistics drawn from a sample, be generalized to an entire population.

**Antirequisite(s):**

[Biology 2244A/B](#), [Economics 2122A/B](#), [2222A/B](#), [Geography 2210A/B](#), [Health Sciences 3801A/B](#), [MOS 2242A/B](#), [Psychology 2810](#), [2820E](#), [2830A/B](#), [2850A/B](#), [2851A/B](#), the former 2885, [Social Work 2207A/B](#), former Social Work 2205, [Statistical Sciences 2035](#), [2141A/B](#), [2143A/B](#), [2244A/B](#), [2858A/B](#) and the former 2122A/B (and Statistical Sciences 2037A/B if taken before Fall 2010).

[Please consult this more comprehensive [list of introductory statistics courses](#) that are antirequisites for each other.]

**Prerequisite(s):**

At least 60% average in 1.0 from [Sociology 1020](#), [1021E](#), [1025A/B](#), [1026F/G](#), [1027A/B](#)

**Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcomes are based upon the premise that at the end of this course, the students will be ‘enlightened’ consumers of Social Science data.

- They will be able to comprehend the statistics used in academic reports.
- They will be able to differentiate between the various levels of measurement.
- They will understand the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics;
- They will know how to select appropriate statistics.

## Required-

1) Text: **STATISTICS, A Tool for Social Research** (3rd Canadian Edition),

By: Joseph Healey, and Steven G. Prus, Wadsworth Pub. Co., 2016.

**The print version is available in the University bookstore**

**ISBN: 978017656207      Price: \$128.50**

The e-version of this text is available at:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/products/a-tool-for-social-research-joseph-f-healey-v9780176599645>

180 day 'rental' at a cost of: \$53.95 (US)

Buy the version of the text with which you are most comfortable.

2. You will also need a simple calculator, able to perform exponentiation and take square roots.

While no other books are on reserve for this course, students are encouraged to refer to other texts when they find an especially interesting, or complicated topic, or as a source of additional review questions. The more practice you have with this material, the easier you will find the assignments and tests!

Despite what you may have heard from your 'friends', this course is no more difficult than any other honours level course, but it does require that you maintain rigorous study habits from the first week of the course, and that you not fall behind in your work. If a student feels that they are facing some unusual difficulty, it is essential that they bring these to the attention of the instructor (and/or the TA) ASAP. If students would prefer assistance from someone outside of the course, private statistics tutors may be available.

All of the following are excellent references that cover the same material as the texts, but in other ways, which you may find more to your liking:

1. Elementary Statistics for the Social Sciences

By: J. Anthony Capon, Wadsworth Pub.

2. Introductory Statistics for Sociology

By: Judith Handel, Prentice - Hall Inc.

3. Basic Social Statistics  
By: Wilbert M. Leonard II, West Publishing Co.
4. Elementary Statistics in Social Research  
By: Jack Levin and James Fox, Harper Collins.
5. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics  
By: M. J. Loether and D. G. McTavish, Allyn and Bacon Inc.
6. Fundamental Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
By: Howard Tokunaga

**Method of Evaluation:**

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| 2 Assignments ( @ 15 % each ) .....             | 30%        |
| Mid-term test (Saturday, 22 Oct. 9-11 AM) ..... | 30%        |
| Final examination (DTBA) .....                  | <u>40%</u> |
|   | 100%       |

## *Evaluation Breakdown*

### **Assignments**

In a course such as this, regular practice and feedback are the best ways to ensure that the student has mastered the material covered. This feedback will be accomplished, in part, through two assignments. We may or may not discuss the assignments in class, but students can always meet with the teaching assistant or with the instructor to discuss them. Each assignment is worth 15 percent of your final grade, for a total of 30 percent. **YOU MUST HAND IN A HARD COPY OF THE ASSIGNMENT; ANY ASSIGNMENT SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF ZERO (0).**

Please read the “Official Information” at the end of this outline for more information.

While it is expected that students will discuss the assignments among themselves, all work submitted shall be the work of the individual student. Just as it is unacceptable to copy from published sources, copying another student’s work is unacceptable! Students who plagiarize each other’s work will receive a grade of zero.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

**Faculty mail boxes are inaccessible to undergrad students, thus assignments accepted outside of class time cannot be left in mailboxes or at the main office – students MUST use the Sociology drop box located opposite 5406 SSC.**

### **Mid-term Test:**

There will be one mid-term test on Saturday, October 22, 2016. The specific materials for which you are responsible for this test will be announced in class, but will likely include all that has been covered to that point in the course, lectures as well as text readings. The test is worth 30 percent of your course grade. The midterm test (as well as the Final exam) will be composed of multiple choice and true/false questions, covering theoretical constructs as well as calculations. The tests are Scantron (computer) graded.

Scantron Exams: Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **Attendance and Classroom Environment:**

Regular class attendance is essential to learning at the university level, especially in a course like this one, where considerable practice of important concepts occurs in the classroom, and where each element of the course serves as a building block for what follows. I strongly encourage you to come to class regularly in order to maximize your opportunities to learn.

### **Final Examination**

The final examination will be during the Christmas exam period. It will be TWO hours in length and be in the same format as the mid-term test. The final exam is cumulative; students are responsible for ALL of the material in the course, although the emphasis on the final will be on the chapters covered after the mid-term test. The exam is worth 40 percent of the final grade.

## **Important Policies**

### **Policies for Assignment Deadlines:**

**ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DATES NOTED BELOW. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE PENALIZED AT THE RATE OF 10 PERCENT OF THE ASSIGNMENT VALUE PER DAY LATE. ANY ASSIGNMENT NOT RECEIVED WITHIN 5 DAYS OF THE DUE DATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED EXCEPT WITH APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION.**

### **A Note on Plagiarism:**

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### *Plagiarism Checking:*

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### **Policies on Examinations**

**Students are allowed to use calculators (but NOT computers) during the midterm test and Final exam.**

“Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.”

### **Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:**

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

### **Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness**

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

## Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

## Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

([http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

## Course Schedule and Readings:

| <u>WEEK OF:</u>  | <u>TOPIC</u>                    | <u>READINGS</u>     |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sept. 12   | Course intro, measurement       | H, Preface, CH 1, 2 |
| 19   | Central tendency                | H, CH 3             |
| 26   | Dispersion                      |                     |
| <b>(Assignment #1 available on OWL; Due: 5 Oct.)</b>   |                                 |                     |
| Oct. 3   | Normal distribution             | H, CH 4             |
| 10   | Inferential Statistics          | H, CH 5, 6          |
| 10   | <b>THANKSGIVING</b>             |                     |
| 17   | Tests of significance           | H, CH 7, 8          |
| <br><b><u>OCTOBER 22 : 9-11 AM – MID-TERM TEST</u></b> |                                 |                     |
| 24   | Nominal measures of association | H, CH 10, 11        |
| October 27, 28:  | <b>Fall Study Break</b>         |                     |

**Nov. 5 LAST DAY TO DROP THIS COURSE WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY**

|              |        |   |                                      |
|--------------|--------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Oct.         | 31     | Ordinal measures of association               | H, CH 12                             |
|              |        | (Assignment #2 available on OWL; Due 23 Nov.) |                                      |
| Nov.         | 7      | Ordinal measures of association               |                                      |
|              | 14     | Interval/Ratio measures of association        | H, CH 13                             |
|              | 21, 28 | Interval/Ratio measures of association        |                                      |
| Dec.         | 5      | Review tutorial (IF TIME PERMITS)             |                                      |
| December.... |        | <b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b>                      | date to be set by registrar's office |

**December 10-21, 2016 is the University Mid-year examination period**

In keeping with departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the class average for this course will be in the range of 67 - 70 %. Should the final overall grades yield a value significantly outside of this range, grades will be adjusted to ensure an appropriate mean for the class.

**THERE IS NO ROUTINE PROVISION FOR MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS, TESTS OR ASSIGNMENTS.**