Sociology 2205 is an introductory course designed to help you conduct and interpret quantitative analysis of social issues. The class will cover elementary statistical concepts and methods used in the social sciences. The emphasis in the class will be not on computation but on understanding the process of analysis and its results. The material can be roughly divided into two parts:

1) The first part will cover descriptive statistics. Here you will learn how to describe the data in the sample, first individual variables and then pairs of variables. We will learn basic numerical and graphical methods appropriate to categorical and continuous variables.

2) The second part will be inference, where you will learn how to generalize sample results to the population. This part will start with the basic philosophy and machinery of inference. Then we will apply this process to univariate and bivariate hypothesis tests and confidence interval calculations.

Learning Outcomes
After a successful completion of the course, you will be able to

- Understand and appreciate statistics’ role and function in sociological inquiry
- Comprehend basic statistics used in industry, government, and academic reports
- Explain the basics of the logic of statistical inference
- Conduct basic quantitative analysis of data
- Critically assess the presentation of statistical data in everyday life (i.e., the media)

Prerequisite(s)
1.0 Sociology course at the 1000 level

Antirequisite(s)
Required Text

The print version is available in the University bookstore.
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’ costs $53.95 (USD)
Buy the version of the text with which you are most comfortable.

Technology Requirement
It is strongly recommended that you bring to classes a laptop where you can access Office applications (such as Word and Excel). You will also need to download and install a free statistical application called JASP. See more on JASP here: https://jasp-stats.org/. We may or may not use SPSS but if we do, it will be via SSC computers so you do not need to purchase it.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Evaluation Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for class</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term test</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In keeping with departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the class average for this course will be around 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.

Additional information

Preparation for class and attentive class presence (10%)
The goal of this category is to make sure you are clued into what we are covering and primed to absorb the max information during the class. In a course like this, regular work and keeping up with the material is critical to ensure you do your best and that you received plentiful feedback on your performance.
At the beginning of some classes, you will answer basic questions about the topics we are about to cover that day. The questions can be as simple as what topic we are covering or
easy questions aimed at making sure you read the text prior to the class. The attentive class presence may consist of answering simple questions during the class or working out simple problems, whether on your own or in a group. Please note if group answers are collected, we only use information about who was present; the quality of the answers will be used to gauge the overall understanding of the material in real time.

**Homework (25%)**
The goal of this category is similar: reviewing the material on your own at home after classes will solidify your learning and offer opportunities for timely feedback. There will be regular weekly or bi-weekly homework sets during the semester, each weighted the same amount. They will draw on the online student supplement to your textbook called Aplia. An Aplia representative will visit our class on Thursday September 7 and show you the app; there is also technical support available from the book publisher.

**Mini-project (10%)**
The goal of this category is to showcase your understanding of the material and correct and creative analysis of the data. We will discuss the project in class in the second part of the semester. You should expect it to comprise an analysis of a particular research question (assigned with some flexibility to the topic); the answer will comprise no more than 2 pages of text plus relevant tables and figures. The mini-project will be due on Thursday December 7 prior to the beginning of class.

**Mid-term test (25%)**
The goal of this item is to review material covered during the first part of the semester. The specific topics will be announced in class but you can expect it to include everything covered up to that point point in the course, lectures as well as textbook readings. The test will include multiple choice and true/false questions, possibly fill-in-the blank answers, as well as short answers to practical data problems. The exam will be in class on Thursday November 2. Note that 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.

**Final test (30%)**
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 will be on the chapters covered after the mid-term test.
**TENTATIVE WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE**

An updated though still tentative outline will be available prior to first class on an updated version of this syllabus on OWL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 9/7</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, 9/12 &amp; 9/14</td>
<td>Univariate descriptives, categorical vars</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, 9/19 &amp; 9/21</td>
<td>Univariate descriptives, continuous vars</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 9/26 &amp; 9/28</td>
<td>Bivariate descriptives</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5, 10/3 &amp; 10/5</td>
<td>Bivariate descriptives, continued</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6, 10/17 &amp; 10/19</td>
<td>Descriptives, the Normal curve</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7, 10/24 &amp; 10/26</td>
<td>Introduction to inference, midterm exam</td>
<td>5, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8, 10/31 &amp; 11/02</td>
<td>1-sample t-test</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9, 11/7 &amp; 11/9</td>
<td>2-sample t-test</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10, 11/14 &amp; 11/16</td>
<td>Chi squared test</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11, 11/21 &amp; 11/23</td>
<td>Correlation (and regression)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 11/28 &amp; 11/30</td>
<td>Catchup week, working on mini-projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13, 12/5 &amp; 12/7</td>
<td>Review, mini-projects due</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9/7</td>
<td>First class</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10, 12</td>
<td>Reading week, no class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10/24</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12/7</td>
<td>Last class, mini-project due</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Final exam</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, September 15 is the last day to add a class and November 12 the last day to drop a ½ course.
SOC 2205 POLICIES

What is the policy on deadlines?
Due dates for homework sets will be posted on OWL and the due date for the mini-project is December 7.
Late homework will not be accepted. Late mini-projects 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.

Do I need to attend classes?
Regular class attendance is essential to learning at the university level. I strongly encourage you to come to class regularly in order to maximize your opportunities to learn. Students are responsible for all announcements, lecture notes, and activities we cover in class even if they have a valid reason to miss a class. If you miss a class, please contact your classmates to obtain information about the class.
Attending lectures AND doing all assigned readings is a necessary (though not sufficient) condition for earning a high grade in this class.

What can I have with me on exams? Or Policies on Examinations
Only pen or pencil is allowed for mid-term and final tests. Calculators or electronic devices of any sort are not allowed.
Note that 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.

What if I have questions about the class or my performance?
You can contact your teaching team (instructor and/or T.A.s) via email. We strongly encourage you to do so as soon as questions or problems arise so we can work with you to help. You can expect replies within 24 hours during regular work days or 48 on weekends.
We will aim to answer faster than that.
Please make sure to write “SOC 2205” in the subject line – if you don’t, we may neglect to notice and answer it in a timely manner.

What’s expected of me in class?
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.
Appropriate behavior is expected of all students, in order to facilitate a supportive learning environment. Any activities not related to the class material must be conducted outside of
the classroom, including any online networking, or in-person communication. Cell phones must be turned off and no conversation or texting is acceptable.

**What is the policy on electronics in class?**

Laptops are permitted in class for note-taking and considered important to successfully follow applied parts of the class – you will want to try analyzing data yourself, not just watch your colleagues or instructor do an analysis. However, if a student is observed browsing the web including social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they may be reprimanded, asked to close the device, or possibly even asked to leave the class. Even if you feel you can still follow the class while browsing, such behavior can be disruptive to those around you and disrespectful to the class. Please make sure that your cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class; beeping and ringing distracts your colleagues and is impolite in a classroom setting.

**How do I communicate with my teaching team?**

You correctly expect that your teaching team treats you with respect and in a professional manner. We expect the same from students. Please make sure your email communication is professional and fairly formal. Emails to your teaching team are NOT like texting your friends – please be polite and use correct spelling and grammar. A nice perspective from the New York Times on student emails is [here](http://www.nytimes.com/). Embedded in the article is the [handout sheet on email etiquette by Dr. Worthen at University of North Carolina](http://handout_sheet). Or consider reading this short post on professors’ pet peeves regarding student communication: [http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2014/08/25/professors-pet-peeves/](http://thesocietypages.org/socimages/2014/08/25/professors-pet-peeves/)

Please make sure to write “SOC 2205” in the subject line – if you don’t, we may neglect to notice and answer it in a timely manner. (yes, I did write it just above – but it bears repeating)

**What if I miss a class?**

If you are absent from a class, two rules apply:

1) **Do not** email your teaching team

2) **Do** get notes and all information from your classmates. You are responsible to keep up with the class. I will post most key information on OWL but make sure you talk to your colleagues in advance and ask them to take notes for you.

**GENERAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES**

**Note Regarding 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).

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. 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

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

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

Mental Health

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options for how to obtain help.