

Western University
Sociology 2205B-001
Statistics for Sociology
Winter 2019
Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am, SSC 2020
Thursdays 9:30-10:30pm, SSC 2020

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Course Description

The Department of Sociology requires that all sociology major students be exposed to social theory, statistics, and research methodology. In this class, students will learn basic statistical techniques and their applications in sociological research. The course will begin with descriptive statistics, which include a review of basic mathematical concepts and methods used to summarize quantitative data, such as frequency tables and graphs, and measures of central tendency and dispersion. The rest of the course will be devoted to inferential statistics, which include statistical techniques for testing hypotheses and measuring the association between variables.

Prerequisite(s)

1.0 Sociology course at the 1000 level

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, Social Work 2207A/B, Statistical Sciences 2035, 2141A/B, 2143A/B, 2244A/B, 2858A/B.

Senate regulation regarding the student's responsibility regarding requisites

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Understand the differences between descriptive and inferential statistics
- 2) Identify the appropriate use of quantitative techniques
- 3) Interpret the results of descriptive and basic inferential data analyses

Required Texts

Healey, Joseph, Steven G. Prus, and Riva Lieflander (2018). *Statistics, A Tool for Social Research* (4th Canadian Ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

Methods of Evaluation

Item	Date	Value
Assignment 1	February 7	10%
Assignment 2	March 21	10%
Assignment 3	April 4	10%
Midterm Exam	February 26, 28	30%
Final Exam	TBD	40%

Assignments

There are three major assignments based on materials covered in class. Each assignment is worth 10% of the final grade. Please hand in a hard copy. Unless appropriate documentation is provided, student who submit their assignments after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 10 % per day.

Midterm Exam

There will be one midterm exam, which will be based on the materials covered in the course. The midterm exam is scheduled for February 28, 2019 and is worth 30% of the final grade. The exact format of the midterm exam will be discussed later in the term.

Final Exam

There will be one final exam, and students are expected to be familiar with all the materials covered in the course. The final exam is worth 40% of the final grade and will be held during the April Exam Period (TBD). The exact format of the final exam will be discussed later in the term.

***Midterm and final exams will not be returned to students. If you want to see your exams, please make an appointment with me.

How to Contact Me

I will be available to respond to questions regarding the course during office hours. I also check my e-mail regularly and will do my best to reply within 48 hours.

How to get important information

Sakai OWL (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) will be used to post course information, content, reminders, and important instructions regarding deadlines, expectations, requirements, etc. It is expected that students check OWL regularly to ensure to keep up to date on new and revised course content.

Grade Guidelines

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For this class, the class average is expected to range between 66% and 70%.

Tentative Course Schedule and Readings

Date	Topic	Reading
January 8, 10	Course overview; Basic math concepts	Preface
January 15, 17 January 22, 24 January 29, 31	Descriptive Statistics Basic descriptive statistics; measures of central tendency and dispersion; normal curve	Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
February 7	***Assignment #1 Due***	
February 5, 7 February 12, 14	Inferential Statistics Sampling distribution; estimation procedures	Chapters 5 & 6
February 19, 21	No Class—Spring Reading Week	
February 26, 28	***Midterm Exam***	
March 5, 7 March 12, 14 March 19, 21	Hypothesis Testing One-sample case; two-sample case; chi-squared test	Chapter 7, 10 & 11
March 21	***Assignment #2 Due***	
March 26, 28 April 2, 4	Bivariate Measures of Association Nominal; ordinal; interval/ratio Review for final exam	Chapters 8, 9 & 13
April 4	***Assignment #3 Due***	
April 11-30	***Final Exam Period***	

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines

Extension of deadlines or alternate dates for tests will be granted only for documented illness or compassionate reasons. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day.

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).

Policies on Examinations

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests. However, students can bring scientific calculators during the midterm and final exam. Please also make sure to bring your own pencils.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are online or 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 every 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. 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 how to obtain help.

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death

Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.