



SOCIOLOGY 2205A-002
Statistics for Sociology
Fall 2026

Delivery Method: in-person
Instructor: Dr. Anna Zajacova
Student Hours: TBD
Email: Anna.Zajacova@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the techniques of statistical analysis used by sociologists, including descriptive statistics, the normal curve, hypothesis testing and various measures of association.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Anti-requisite(s): [Biology 2244A/B](#), [Economics 2122A/B](#), [Economics 2222A/B](#), [Geography 2210A/B](#), [Health Sciences 3801A/B](#), [MOS 2242A/B](#), the former Psychology 2810, the former Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2811A/B](#), [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2850A/B](#), [Psychology 2851A/B](#), [Social Work 2207A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2035](#), [Statistical Sciences 2141A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2143A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2244A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2858A/B](#).

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Sociology 2205 is an introductory course designed to help you conduct and interpret basic quantitative analyses of social issues. The class will cover elementary statistical concepts and methods used in sociology and other social sciences. The emphasis is understanding the science and art of analysis and interpretation of findings. The material in this course can be roughly divided into two parts

- 1) The first part will cover **descriptive statistics**. Here we will learn how to summarize and describe data, first one variable at a time and then pairs of variables. We will learn basic numerical and graphical methods appropriate for categorical and continuous variables.
- 2) The second part will be **inference**, where we will learn how to generalize results obtained from a sample to the population. This part will start with the basic logic of inference, focusing on the importance of sampling distributions. Then we will apply the general approach to univariate and bivariate hypothesis tests and confidence interval calculations appropriate for categorical and continuous variables.

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

- Understand and appreciate statistics' role in social science
- Comprehend basic statistics used in industry, government, and academic reports
- Independently conduct elementary quantitative analysis of data
- Explain the logic of statistical inference
- Write and run your own Stata code to analyze real data, and interpret the resulting output
- Critically assess the presentation of statistical data in everyday life

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. **Textbook “Introductory Statistics 2e”** (second edition) by Illowsky and Dean (2024), OpenStax, Rice University. This is a great textbook, available **FREE** online at <https://openstax.org/details/books/introductory-statistics-2e>. You can view the chapters online or download pdfs. If you wish, you can also buy a printed version for a reasonable price. We will only cover select chapters and chapter sections; I will indicate which sections to read each week.
2. **Statistical software Stata.** Get the **6-month license for Stata Version BE** for **\$48 USD** from <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/profplus/student-pricing/> .
Stata must be installed before the second class. Note [Stata-compatible operating systems](#): you will need a laptop; you cannot install Stata on your phone or most tablets. We will be using Stata all through the semester and access is necessary for class work, homework, and assignments. The installation requires some patience – please just follow instructions.
Stata is also available in campus computer labs and through a remote login system. However, be aware that both options are inconvenient: labs limit access, and the remote option is technically challenging (your teaching team cannot provide tech support for it). Thus, I strongly recommend using your own laptop. If you don't have one, please borrow one for the term. Almost any laptop (even an old one) will work — you don't need a souped-up machine.
3. **Calculator.** Any will do, even the cheapest dollar-store calculator will be fine.

COMMUNICATION

- Students are responsible for reviewing the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course
- **Post questions on the Forum on our course Brightspace site.** We will aim to respond within 48-72 hours during the work week; we are not able to respond during breaks and weekends.
- **Pose questions in class**
- **You are always welcome to come in during student hours!** No need to sign up beforehand, just show up, we will be happy to see you.
- **Email:** If you have a question specific to your personal situation, you can email your instructor at Anna.Zajacova@uwo.ca. Please allow 48 hours for response during the work week; no responses should be expected during breaks and weekends. General questions about course material or logistics should be posted on Brightspace Forum.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The reading list and weekly schedule are available on the course OWL Brightspace site.

Sept 15	Week 1. Introduction: what's statistics, descriptives & inference, variable types Chapter 1: intro, 1.1-1.3
Sept 22	Week 2. Descriptives for categorical variables Chapter 1: 1.2, 1.3 Chapter 2: intro. Bar graph text in 2.1
Sept 29	Week 3. Descriptives for continuous (quantitative) variables Chapter 2: intro, 2.1-2.7
Oct 6	Week 4. Probability, distributions Chapter 3: intro, 3.1. Chapter 4: intro, 4.1, 4.2. Chapter 5: intro, 5.1. 5.2.
October 10-18 Reading week	
Oct 20	Week 5. The normal distribution Chapter 6: intro, 6.1, 6.2 Assignment 1 due October 20 at 11:59 pm
Oct 27	Week 6. Sampling distributions Chapter 7: intro, 7.1, 7.3
Nov 3	Week 7. Hypothesis tests about a population mean; confidence intervals Chapter 8: intro, 8.1, 8.2 Chapter 9: intro, 9.1, 9.3-9.5
Nov 10	Week 8. No lecture, no new material Midterm exam November 10 in class (100 minutes).
Nov 17	Week 9. Hypothesis tests about two population means Chapter 10: intro, 10.1
Nov 24	Week 10. Chi square test for pairs of categorical variables Chapter 3: 3.4 Chapter 11: intro, 11.1, 11.3-11.4
Dec 1	Week 11. Correlation and regression for pairs of continuous variables Chapter 12: intro, 12.1-12.4 Assignment 2 due December 1 at 11:59 pm
Dec 8	Week 12. Correlation and regression, continued. No new readings

Final exam: TBD

Please note: Schedule and readings are subject to change.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Evaluation Breakdown

1. Weekly in-class quizlets	10%
2. Weekly homeworks	10%
3. Midterm exam, in class, November 10	29%
4. Final exam, time and place TBD	37%
5. Two group assignments, worth 7% each	14%

1. **Weekly in-class quizlets.** During most or all classes, we will have a short 5-question quiz via Brightspace-Assessments-Quizzes. The quizlets assess class attendance and engagement with class material.
2. **Weekly homework assignments.** Most or all weeks you will upload assigned homework problems to Brightspace Assignment tab. The homeworks will be graded as pass/fail; the aim is to encourage regular work on the class material. With that aim in mind, homework will be due the week after the class for which they are assigned. There will be a short additional grace period but homeworks cannot be uploaded once the assignment tab is closed.

For quizlets and homeworks, the lowest 2 scores will be dropped from final grade calculation.

These can be low scores or zeroes on missed quizlets/homeworks. This is a universal accommodation that covers all medical, personal, technical, internet-connection, or any other circumstance, situation, or problem. No further accommodation is possible.

3. **Midterm.** Paper-and-pencil, closed-book exam, mostly or exclusively multiple choice, during the regular class period. Calculators are allowed. Formula sheet and statistical tables will be provided as needed; additional information will be provided at least 10 days prior to the exam. The midterm has been designated as requiring supporting documentation (self-attestation is not allowed to skip or reschedule it; official university accommodation is necessary).
4. **Final exam.** Paper-and-pencil, closed-book exam, mostly or exclusively multiple choice, during the regular class period. Calculators are allowed. Formula sheet and statistical tables will be provided as needed; additional information will be provided at least 10 days prior to the exam.
5. **Assignments.** Two assignments focus on practicing independent data analysis with Stata. Detailed instructions will be posted on Brightspace at least 10 days before deadline. You will complete the assignments in pairs (groups of two or three), choosing your own partner and submitting one pdf per pair. If you prefer, you can submit on your own; no need to ask/email.

Makeup exams. There will be **one makeup date** for the midterm and one for the final. The dates are set by the Sociology Department. They are available **only** to students with official consideration through the Academic Counselling Office. **Your instructor cannot make any exceptions.**

USE OF GENERATIVE AI

AI tools can be powerful learning partners. I strongly encourage you to use them to learn and clarify concepts, better understand Stata commands, or check statistical interpretations. These tools can also help you brainstorm, edit for clarity and style, and polish written work. While AI may assist you, you are accountable for ensuring that your work is correct, original, and that you could reproduce or explain it independently.

- You may use AI tools to support your work, but you are solely responsible for the content and quality of everything you submit.
- For assignments and homeworks, you must run and present your own Stata code, results, tables, and figures; AI-generated results are not permitted.
- You may use AI to help interpret your Stata output, but the coding itself must follow what we cover in class.
- Exams are paper-and-pencil: AI is not permitted.
- Academic integrity applies fully: plagiarism or unacknowledged reliance on AI (or any source) violates university policy.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND CONSIDERATIONS

All considerations must go through the official university system. I cannot make any exceptions, but I will fully support all academic considerations approved through Academic Advising.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation (the midterm exam). This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Laptops are permitted in class but only for class-related use. Phones and other devices are not permitted. Absolutely no electronic devices are allowed during exams: no phones, no tablets, no laptops, and absolutely no wearables. Simply having a phone or wearable on you or within reach during exams constitutes a potential serious academic offense.

2026-2027



Department of Sociology
Effective September 1, 2026.

Academic Policies

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf) Policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf .

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.

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 Western University and Turnitin.com

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones off and store them in their bags/coat at the front of the room. The use (or possession) of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited. Those caught using a cell phone or other communication technologies, or even the physical possession of these technologies during an examination, will result in a zero on the examination in question. Similarly, the use (or possession) of these technologies during examination breaks (bathroom breaks during an exam) will also result in a zero. Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the examination or on examination breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the examination in question. In sum, your cellphones should never be seen or heard during an examination and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Code of Student Conduct: Every student is expected to comply with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University. It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize themselves with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf.

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded. Students must ensure course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean is obtained. Students who fail to do so will be removed from the course without adjustments to fees. The decision may not be appealed.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf

Registration and Progression:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf

Graduation Requirements:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf.

Students missing regularly scheduled course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. **Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams)** and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical_certificate.pdf or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science (Effective September 1, 2026):

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.**

Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through [Student Center](#) before the [published drop deadline](#). A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office [refund schedule](#) to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the [Student Absence Portal](#) to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Advising Office.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Guidelines for Grades/Marks: The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are expected to follow. Generally, and with few exceptions, this means that the number of A's in a course cannot exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall within a prescribed percentage range. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to your peers. Courses with grades falling outside this range may be adjusted, up or down. These guidelines do not prohibit a student achieving 95% or higher in all their courses, but it does mean that an entire course cannot be made up of students receiving 95%. This policy combats grade inflation, contributing to higher standards, and ensuring uniformity across all courses of the same level. Motivated and hard-working students receive grades well above the course averages. The use of grade guidelines, including any adjustments of grades, either up or down for this purpose, cannot be used as the basis of an appeal.

Sociology 1000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology 2000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology 3000-Level

Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology 4000-Level

Means in the range of 78-82%

Support Services:

- **Office of the Registrar Services** <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- **Faculty Academic Advising** - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters
https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html .
- **USC services** – information available regarding student health/dental plan, LTC bus pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/> .
- **Mental health** – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- **Health & Wellness Services** – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>.
- **Accessible Education** provides support and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.
- **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence** – Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- **Western Libraries** – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is also available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.
- **Writing Support Centre** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available to undergraduate students <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>.
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook/course material availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/course-materials-textbooks/course-materials-and-textbooks>.