

SOCY201—Introductory Statistics for Sociology (4 credits)

Professor:

Alan Neustadtl
Department of Sociology
ART/SOCY Building (ASY 3135)
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Class Time and Location:

Art/Sociology Building (ASY 2309)
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00am-12:15pm
Labs are on Mondays

Accurate as of January 24, 2008

General Course Information

Description of the course

This course covers elementary descriptive and inferential statistics including construction of bivariate contingency tables; frequency distributions and graphic presentations; measures of central tendency and dispersion; parametric measures of association and correlation; regression; hypothesis testing; normal, t -, F -, and chi-square distributions; and point and interval estimates.

- **Purpose of the Course**

In general, the social sciences increasingly rely on quantitative analyses as a means of understanding complex social phenomenon. Further, a minimal background in statistics is important for understanding everyday sources of information such as a newspaper. The main objective of this course is to familiarize students who possess little or no training in quantitative analysis with the rudimentary statistical skills to 1) prepare them for more advanced courses and 2) to confidently interpret and use descriptive statistics encountered everyday as well as in their upper-level classes.

- **Course Pre-requisite(s)**

SOCY 100 and MATH 111 or equivalent. Not open to students who have completed BMGT 231, ENEE 324, or STAT 400. Credit will be granted for only one of the following: AREC 484, BIOM 301, BMGT 230, CNEC 400, ECON 321, EDMS 451, GEOG 305, GVPT 422, PSYC 200, SOCY 201, URSP 350, or TEXT 400.

Course Materials

- **Required textbooks**

Knoke, David, George W. Bohrnstedt, and Allisa Potter Mee. 2002. *Statistics for Social Data Analysis (4th edition)*. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, CA.

- **Teaching Assistants**

Nathan Jurgenson	ART/SOCY #4114	njurgenson@socy.umd.edu	301-405-6426
Tannishta Samanta	ART/SOCY #4114	tsamanta@socy.umd.edu	301-405-6426

Labs	Location	Time	Teaching Assistant	Listserv
0101	Cole 3111	M 8:00- 9:50am	Samanta	SOCY201A
0102	Cole 3111	M 10:00- 11:50am	Samanta	SOCY201A
0103	Cole 3109	M 12:00- 1:50pm	Jurgenson	SOCY201B
0104	Cole 3109	M 2:00- 3:50am	Jurgenson	SOCY201B

Office Hours (also by appointment)

Jurgenson	M 9:00am-11:00am
Neustadtl	T 12:30pm-2:00pm
Samanta	TH 10:30am-12:30pm

Outline of Information to be Covered in the Course

<i>Date</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Class</i>	<i>Chapter/Title</i>	
January				
29	Tu	1	1. Introduction.	
31	Th	2	1. Statistics in the Research Process.	
February				
5	Tu	3	2. Describing Variables.	
7	Th	4	2. Describing Variables.	
12	Tu	5	3. Inferences About Means.	
14	Th	6	3. Inferences About Means.	
19	Tu	7	3. Inferences About Means.	Quiz #1
21	Th	8	3. Inferences About Means.	
26	Tu	9	Examination Review	
28	Th	10	Examination 1	
March				
4	Tu	11	4. Analysis of Variance.	
6	Th	12	4. Analysis of Variance.	
11	Tu	13	4. Analysis of Variance.	
13	Th	14	5. Analyzing Categorical Data.	
Spring Break, March 17-21				
25	Tu	15	5. Analyzing Categorical Data.	
27	Th	16	5. Analyzing Categorical Data.	Quiz #2
April				
1	Tu	17	Extra Day	
3	Th	18	Examination Review	
8	Tu	19	Examination 2	
10	Th	20	7. The Logic of Multivariate Contingency Analysis.	
15	Tu	21	7. The Logic of Multivariate Contingency Analysis.	
17	Th	22	6. Bivariate Regression and Correlation.	
22	Tu	23	6. Bivariate Regression and Correlation.	Quiz #3
24	Th	24	8. Multiple Regression Analysis.	
29	Tu	25	8. Multiple Regression Analysis.	
May				
1	Tu	26	8. Multiple Regression Analysis.	
6	Th	27	8. Multiple Regression Analysis.	
8	Tu	28	Extra Day	
13	Th	29	Examination Review	
15	Th	30	Final Examination (8:00-10:00am)	

Dates are approximate and will change. Please pay attention.

Examinations

- ***Use of Unannounced Quizzes***

In addition to the scheduled exams and quizzes, I reserve the right to use unannounced quizzes to ensure regular attendance and timely completion of reading assignments.

- ***Dates of Examinations and Quizzes***

First Quiz:	Tuesday, February 19 th
First Examination:	Thursday, February 28 th
Second Quiz:	Thursday, March 27 th
Second Examination:	Tuesday, April 8 th
Third Quiz:	Tuesday, April 22 nd
Final Examination:	Thursday, May 15 th , 8:00am—10:00am

- ***Type of Examination***

Examinations will typically be a combination of short answer and work problems.

- ***What Will the Examinations Test?***

The examinations in this class will test your memory of basic statistical facts, your general understanding of elementary statistics, and your ability to apply basic statistical methods to real-world problems.

- ***Make-up Policy***

Occasionally, student absences are the result of circumstances over which the student has no control. When this occurs, the University will excuse the absence and permit the student to make-up any missed work and exams. Excusable absences include:

- ◆ Documented illness
- ◆ Religious observance
- ◆ Participation in a University activity at the request of a University official (e.g., athletes, band, mock trial and so forth)
- ◆ Documented family emergency

Notify me well in advance of your absence. If this is not possible, contact me as soon as possible afterwards. All excuses require appropriate documentation (e.g. a letter from your doctor, Dean, coach, etc.). One time a student came to me with a medical excuse for the second examination a month after the end of the course—s/he had a headache. Yeah.

- ***Testing Procedures***

All examinations will begin on time. Please plan on arriving to the examination room early to account for traffic, weather, and other potential delays you might encounter on your way to the examination.

You should bring 1) pencils, 2) erasers, 3) your text book and notes, and 4) a calculator. All examinations will be “open book” and you may use a calculator. No cellular telephones, personal digital assistants or laptop computers with Wi-Fi may be used as calculators. None of these resources may be shared between students.

You will not be allowed to leave the classroom to use a bathroom during the examination

Grades for the Class

- Grade will be determined using a weighted average of the homework assignments and in-class examinations. The relative weights are:

Homework	15%
Quizzes (3)	15%
Examination 1	20%
Examination 2	20%
Final Examination	25%
Class Participation	5%

Letter grades will be assigned using the following table:

Possible Grades for SOCY201

Letter Grade	F	D	C	B	A
Numerical Range	Below 60	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100
	—	D+ 67-69	C+ 77-79	B+ 87-89	A+ 97-100
	—	D 63-66	C 73-76	B 83-86	A 93- 96
	—	D- 60-62	C- 70-72	B- 80-82	A- 90- 92

• *Incomplete Grade Policy for the Course*

The University recognizes that there are instances in which course work may not be completed before the end of the semester. In these rare instances, I can issue a grade of “I” (incomplete), indicating that a major portion, but not all of the course work has been successfully completed. If circumstances (such as illness, employment changes, family emergency and so forth) prevent you from completing your course work, contact me to discuss the possibility of developing an incomplete contract. Our contract will clearly describe the work that must be completed and state the deadline for its completion. Please note that I am under no obligation to accept an incomplete contract.

If you do not complete the course work by the contract deadline you will receive a grade based upon the completed course work. For example, if you completed 75% of the course work the maximum grade you could receive is a “C”. Students may not re-register or repeat a course in which he/she received an incomplete. While the incomplete grade is not used in the computation of student grade point averages, students must remove all incompletes from their transcript before they are eligible to graduate.

• *How Are Grade Complaints Handled?*

Students are encouraged to resolve grade disputes by making an appointment to discuss your situation with me and your teaching assistant. When we meet to discuss a disputed grade, I will consider your arguments carefully and try to resolve the issue to our mutual satisfaction. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, you can file a written appeal under the arbitrary and capricious grading procedures, which are outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Expectations of Students in the Class

- ***Class attendance***

Required—lack of attendance may have a negative affect on your grade. Need I say more? Both the academic research and my experience is that the highest grades are associated with the students with the best attendance.

- ***Class Conduct***

While rare, there are instances in which a student's behavior disrupts class and interferes with other students' education. According to the University, the term "classroom disruption" means behavior a reasonable person would view as interfering with the conduct of the class. Examples include making loud or distracting noises, persistent speaking without being recognized, physical threats or personal insults. Please recognize that your behavior in class affects many others and act accordingly.

Please turn off all cellular telephones, pagers, and other communication devices and give your full attention to learning material and helping others to learn. Be a participant and enhance this class; do not detract from my ambition of teaching you statistics in a collaborative way.

- ***Assignments***

Assignments are due on the dates assigned in class. It is your responsibility to know these dates. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day unless you have made appropriate arrangements with me or the teaching assistants.

- ***Test Taking***

It is your responsibility to know the time and location of examinations. Examinations will begin on time—do not be late. You will not be permitted to take an examination after another student turns in their examination.

- ***Class Participation***

Class participation can take many forms including attendance, asking questions (of me, of the teaching assistants) and contributing your opinions to the class (as long as they are relevant to the current discussion). You should feel free to ask questions in class, in your lab, during office hours, and by electronic mail. We will try to answer all questions quickly and succinctly.

- ***Excuse from Class for Religious Observances***

In accordance with University policy, we will try to accommodate reasonable and timely requests for absences due to religious observances. If you participate in religious holidays that will affect your class attendance or course work, please see me as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

It is your responsibility to inform me of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible but no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period, Friday, February 8th.

- ***Academic Integrity Expectations***

The University of Maryland has developed regulations and requirements to enhance the educational environment of the campus. Students may not cheat on exams, plagiarize papers, buy papers, submit fraudulent documents or forge signatures. Plagiarizing means to communicate someone else's ideas as if they are your own (including failing to cite a book or article used for a paper). Furthermore, students are not permitted to submit the same paper for credit in two different

courses. Faculty members who suspect or witness acts of academic dishonesty are required to contact the Student Honor Council (X4-9154) and the Office of Judicial Programs. For more information, please see “Academic Integrity, Resolution On” and the “Code of Student Conduct” in the current edition of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

• ***Parental Involvement***

The University of Maryland complies with the regulations set forth in the Buckley amendment, which is a part of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The Buckley Amendment protects students from having personal and academic information disclosed to anyone other than the student. This information includes (but is not limited to) grades, special requests, current and past course registrations, financial aid disbursements, billing history and disciplinary action. These restrictions often apply to the disclosure of this information to parents; however, there are instances in which your parents may have access to your personal and academic information. I will never discuss “protected” information over the telephone with anyone except you, the student unless 1) you give me a signed, written waiver, and 2) you are present when the discussion occurs. Without a waiver, only general information about the course will be discussed (nature of course, due dates of assignments, etc.).

University Deadlines (please refer to the calendar current edition of the *Schedule of Classes* at

http://www.testudo.umd.edu/acad_cal/spring_2008.html)

- **First day of classes:** January 28th
- **Last Day of Schedule Adjustment** February 8th
- **Drop with a W deadline:** April 11th
- **Spring Break** March 17th to the 21st
- **Last Day of classes:** May 13th
- **Final Exam:** Thursday, May 15th from 8:00-10:00AM
<http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/exam200801.html>

Students with Disabilities

The University of Maryland is committed to accommodating students, faculty and staff with disabilities. These accommodations can take a great many forms depending upon the disability. The issue is of such importance to the campus that the President’s Office has issued a guide which specifically addresses the problems which often arise when dealing with this issue. A copy of the Campus Guide is available from the Dean’s Office (X5-1692).

If you have a documented physical or learning disability, I am willing to make the necessary accommodations after reviewing your documentation. Please contact me by February 8th so that we can discuss these accommodations. You can contact Dr. Alan Marcus at Disability Support Service (X4-7682) for information on how to document your disability. The Disability Support Service is located in Shoemaker Hall and can be reached at (X4-7651).