Sociology 205 - Spring 2013
Social Statistics I

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Lecture: Tu 4:30-6:20pm in Kiely Hall 427
Lab: Th 4:30-6:20pm in Powdermaker Hall 212
Office Hours: Tu & Th 3-4pm and by appointment

In this class, we will study statistical techniques to analyze social science data. This course is an introduction to descriptive, inferential, and multivariate statistics. The goal of this course is to provide you with the skills necessary to interpret quantitative information, to understand statistical reports, and to analyze data with a statistical software.
This course is a combination of lectures, computer labs and independent data analysis. It is a 6-hour course. You will be spending 2 hours in lecture, 2 hours in instructional computer labs, and 2 hours doing independent data analysis each week. You will also be expected to read and study the course material regularly and to complete homework assignments.
This course is not open to students with credit for ECON 249 or PSYCH 107.

Required Textbook and Material

- Healey, Joseph F. 2009. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research.* (9th ed) Wadsworth Cengage Learning. (ISBN-10: 0-495-09655-5) [Available at the college bookstore]
- A basic calculator. Please bring your calculator to lectures and labs regularly. You will need it throughout the semester, for use in class, at home, and during tests. During the exams, the use of cellphones is not permitted for any reason, whether it be as a calculator, watch, or for any other purpose. Sharing a calculator is not allowed during exams.

Office Hours and Questions Office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4pm at Powdermaker Hall 252EE. No appointment is necessary during these times. If you would like an appointment with me outside of my regular office hours, please e-mail me or speak to me before or after class. I am here to help you learn. If you have any questions, don't be shy: please come talk to me as soon as possible.

Tutor The tutor for this course is Baruch Krieger. He will be available to assist you with statistical concepts, homework problems, and the SPSS computer program. He is a great resource for you: don't miss the opportunity to learn from him. Baruch holds office hours by appointment only. To schedule a meeting with Baruch, you can contact him by e-mail at bkrieger100@qc.cuny.edu

Course outline and schedule

Date	Topics	Textbook reference
Tuesday, January 29	Lecture: Introduction to Statistics	Chapter 1
Thursday, January 31	Lab	
Tuesday, February 5	Lecture: Data description & Central tendency	Chapters 2 & 3
Thursday, February 7	Lab	
Tuesday, February 12	No Class: Lincoln's Birthday	
Thursday, February 14	Lecture: Measures of dispersion	Chapter 4
Tuesday, February 19	Lecture: The Normal curve & z-scores	Chapter 5
Thursday, February 21	Lab	
Tuesday, February 26	Review Part I	
Thursday, February 28	Lab	
Tuesday, March 5	**EXAM I** (Part I)	
Thursday, March 7	Lab	
Tuesday, March 12	Lecture: Sampling & Estimation	Chapters 6-7
Thursday, March 14	Lab	
Tuesday, March 19	Lecture: Hypothesis testing (one-sample case)	Chapter 8
Thursday, March 21	Lab	
Tuesday, March 26	Spring break	
Thursday, March 28	Spring break	
Tuesday, April 2	Spring break	
Thursday, April 4	Lab	
Tuesday, April 9	Lecture: Chi-square test of independence and measure of association	Chapters 11-12
Thursday, April 11	Lab	
Tuesday, April 16	Review Part II	
Thursday, April 18	**EXAM II** (Part II only)	
Tuesday, April 23	Lecture: Correlation & bivariate linear regression	Chapter 14
Thursday, April 25	Lab	
Tuesday, April 30	Lecture: Partial correlation and multivariate linear regression	Chapters 15-16
Thursday, May 2	Lab	
Tuesday, May 7	Lecture: Correlation, causation and statistical interpretation	
Thursday, May 9	Review (Part III)	
Tuesday, May 14	**EXAM III** (Part III only)	
Thursday, May 16	Review for final cumulative exam	

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework	15%
Exam 1	25%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Total	100%

Attendance & Participation Attendance is required for this class. Both attendance and participation will count towards your final grade. Please help create a constructive learning environment. Different people have different ways in which they participate best, all of which are valid: active listening, thoughtful preparation, sharing a well-formulated idea after a long pause, helping a classmate understand a concept, sharing the results of an in-class exercise with the class, coming to office hours, bringing news articles to class, etc. I strongly encourage you to interact with me and the other students. Even if you feel uncertain about how to express something, I would rather have you speak up than say nothing at all. Listen to your peers, wait for your turn to speak, and refrain from using discriminatory language. If you are a talker, make sure that your quieter peers get a chance to speak. If you are shy, remember that if you have a question, most likely there is at least one other person with the same question who would be happy to listen to the answer.

Homework There will be homework assignments almost every week. Assignments will be graded. Homework assignments will consist of problems from the end of the chapters, problems made up by the instructor, and data analysis using SPSS. These assignments will be very helpful for you to comprehend the topics covered in class. They will vary in scope and size, and can be done individually or in small groups. If you do the homework with a group of classmates, you still have to turn in your own copy of the homework. Make sure to write the names of all the classmates that worked with you on the front page of the assignment. The homework assignments are good practice for the exams. Students who do not attend class regularly, do not read the text, and fail to complete and understand the homework very rarely pass this course.

Exams There are 3 exams given in class prior to the final. They will include questions about the material covered in class and in the textbook, as well as calculation problems. Bring your hand calculator and a pen or pencil to all exams. If you miss an exam, the final is substituted. The final exam is cumulative. For students taking *all* in-class exams, the final exam is optional and can only raise your grade. Students missing *any* in-class exam are required to take the final exam. Make-up exams are given only under special circumstances. If you have a valid reason for a makeup exam, please inform me as soon as possible. A valid reason is a medical emergency, a death in the family, and very little else. In all cases, you will be expected to bring in proof.

Class Conduct

Class atmosphere will be quite relaxed. Just a few guidelines to make sure:

- Arriving a few minutes late is tolerated as long as you make an effort to minimize the disturbance for other students.
- Eating and drinking in class is not forbidden, but please make sure that you are not disturbing others.
- Please turn off all cellphones or put them on silent mode.
- If you cannot make it to class for whatever reason, make sure that you know what happened during the lecture that you missed. It is your responsibility, and nobody else's, to do so.
- If you have to leave a class early, please inform me in advance.
- If you are having trouble with the course material or personal problems that are hindering your performance in the class, please come and talk to me so that we can solve the problem before it is too late. It is better to bring up any concerns as early as they arise.
- Please always show respect to your fellow classmates.

Students with Disabilities
Please inform me as soon as possible of special needs that you may have, like larger printouts of quizzes and exams, or extra time on an exam. The sooner you notify me, the better we will be able to accommodate you.

Academic Integrity
A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty. Students must do all their work within the boundaries of acceptable academic norms. See the *Student Handbook* regarding college policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Students found guilty of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions, which may include reduction of grade, a failure in the course, suspension or expulsion.