Syllabus

PSYC 1303: Statistical Methods

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Course Instructor

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Term: Fall 2015

Office Hours: I check my emails every day and try to respond to them as soon as possible (e.g., the same day or night).

Course Description

A study of the basic concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics as applied to research in the behavioral sciences. Topics may include descriptive statistics, experimental design, correlation, analysis of variance, and non-parametric tests.

Course Overview

The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the fundamental methods and techniques of descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive statistics consists of organizing, analyzing, and summarizing numerical data. The graphs, measures of central tendency, variability, probability, and correlation and regression are the main topics in descriptive statistics. On the other hand, inferential statistics—with hypothesis testing at its heart—involves drawing conclusions about immeasurable populations based on the data gathered from samples of those populations. Taken together, these two interrelated areas of statistics walk hand-in-hand with most social and behavioral sciences, including psychology. To understand and apply science, each and every student must attain a good command of descriptive and inferential statistics.

Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisite Courses: (MATH 1320 w/C or better) OR (MATH 1508 w/C or better) OR (MATH 1411 w/C or better) OR (MATH 1312 w/C or better) OR (MATH 2313 w/C or better) OR (MATH
2326 w/C or better) OR (MATH 2301 w/C or better) OR (BANM score between 4 and 5) OR (ACCL score between 081 and 120 AND BANM score between 4 and 5) OR (BANM score between 4 and 5 AND EPCM score between 081 and 120) OR (MATH 1411A w/C or better AND MATH 1411B w/C or better AND MATH 1411C w/C or better) OR (MATH 1508A w/C or better AND MATH 1508B w/C or better AND MATH 1508C w/C or better) OR (SXDG score of 1 or above) OR (SXMA score of 1 or above) OR (SXMN score of 1 or above) OR (SXOI score of 1 or above) OR (SXTR score of 1 or above).

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge:

Statistics is closely related to mathematics. In order to fully understand and apply statistical concepts, one needs to be familiar with using and working with numbers (e.g., addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) and solving simple algebraic problems. Also, some examples and problems covered in this course originate in psychology and other related social and health sciences topics and themes. So, an acceptable level of familiarity with these domains will be desirable to fully shine in this course. Anyone who has already passed—at least—an introductory course in one of these areas will really enjoy the experience.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Explain the fundamentals of a statistical study.
2. Distinguish between descriptive and inferential statistical concepts.
3. Evaluate concepts of descriptive statistics to organize, analyze, and summarize numerical data.
4. Evaluate concepts of inferential statistics to draw conclusions about immeasurable populations.

Course Textbook


Required Materials

- Calculator

Technology Requirements

- Having access to the SPSS or Excel software can help students check their answers to the problems.

Tech Support
The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and online help desk support at http://at.utep.edu/techsupport/.

Method of Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussions (7 @ 25 points)</td>
<td>175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (9 @ 25 points)</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 @ 40 points)</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Grading Scale

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<tbody>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%–89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%–69.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0%–59.9%</td>
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Expectations and Policies

What to Expect from the Instructor

I will check emails every day and respond as soon as possible. I will announce grades the following week. I will also check the questions posted to the course forum and respond as soon as possible.

Participation

Emails

When you write me to ask questions, provide comments, and other stuff, please use your UTEP email account. When you write, try to be clear and specific.

Course forum

As well as communicating through email, you can also ask questions and make comments on the course forum. This way, your classmates will have the chance to see your questions and comments and get involved in the process.
Assignments

Assignments are an important part of the course and so deserve to be of high priority. Do them soon to avoid losing grades.

Online course behavior

When you communicate with the class, make sure you do this positively, respectfully, and politely.

Academic Dishonesty Statement

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

- *Cheating* may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports.
- *Plagiarism* occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents another person’s words or ideas as his or her own.
- *Collusion* involves unauthorized collaboration with another person or group to commit any academically dishonest act.

Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. You can fine more information in the UTEP *Handbook of Operating Procedures*, under the heading “*Alleged Student Scholastic Dishonesty,*” and in the *Regents’ Rules and Regulations*.

Late Policy

Missed quizzes and exams can be dealt with only when you have at least one solid reason in hand. If you miss something, you need to provide official documents (e.g., a doctor’s note) to make up. Also, missed assignments and discussions are gone and you can’t ask for makeups.

Library Information

Access the UTEP Library by visiting [http://libraryweb.utep.edu/](http://libraryweb.utep.edu/).

Effective Electronic Communication

It is important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. In an online environment, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos can be difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. We all need to keep this in mind as we communicate.
Words in print may seem harmless, but they can emotionally injure us when working at a distance. Hence, we must be conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance and use good netiquette, that is, online communication etiquette. For example, your classmates may not know who is posting a comment, so clearly identify yourself when posting to a discussion board. Furthermore, avoid using all capital letters in electronic communication, as all caps come across as shouting.

The standard netiquette for participation in networked discussion requires that all comments focus on the topic at hand, without becoming personalized, and be substantive in nature. In other words, you certainly may disagree with others, but you must do so respectfully. You may express strong beliefs or emotions, but you may not get so carried away that you lose all perspective on the course itself.

You can find more information on netiquette, the etiquette of Internet communication, at www.albion.com/netiquette.

**Disability Statement**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit the office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106.

For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.