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INSS 2304: STATISTICS FOR SECURITY STUDIES
Fall 2021
Duration: 10/18/2021-12/03/2021
CRN:17965
Online Course

I. TEXTBOOK

Salkind, N. J., & Frey, B. B. (2019). *Statistics for people who think they hate statistics (7th edition)*. ISBN-13: 978-1544381855.

https://www.amazon.com/Statistics-People-Think-They-Hate/dp/1544381859/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=Statistics+for+people+who+think+they+hate+statistics&qid=1623102201&sr=8-3

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Understand the statistical concepts and methods necessary for quantitative analysis of intelligence problems.
- B. Analyze data by graphs, charts, and inferential statistical tests.
- C. Acquire computing skills with SPSS.
- D. Apply quantitative reasoning to decision-making regarding intelligence and national security.

III. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Examine the basic statistical methods and the analytical techniques highly useful in security studies. Applications come from relevant intelligence and security examples. You will learn to illustrate the benefits of statistical thinking and develop a deeper conceptual understanding of complex security problems.

IV. COMMUNICATION

Email: UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.

Announcements: Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.

Office Hours: I am available to meet in person or virtually upon request. Appointments should be scheduled via e-mail.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Exams (40%)

There will be two exams comprised of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The first exam will be on **November 14th** and the second exam will be on **December 3rd**. Once you begin taking the exam, you will need to finish it within three hours. Information covered on the exam will be taken from the book and Blackboard content.

Quizzes (10%)

There will be a pre-test and post-test quiz for each week's module. Questions may be multiple-choice and/or true-false. Students must complete the pre-test quiz prior to accessing the module material. The pre-test quiz is intended to test students' knowledge of the reading material. After reviewing the module material, students will then take a post-test quiz, which will be identical to the pre-test quiz. Only the post-test quizzes will be calculated as part of the final grade.

Paper (25%)

Students will be asked to read an article about a quantitative national security-related research study. Students will then write a two-page paper in which they identify the research question in the study, summarize the background information related to the research question, identify hypotheses posed and the statistical tests used, evaluate whether those statistical tests were appropriately used and why, and summarize and interpret the results of the statistical tests. See the grading rubric in Blackboard for a more detailed discussion of the criteria for this assignment. **This assignment is due on December 1st!**

Homework (25%)

Students will complete weekly homework assignments. These will be **due by midnight on the Sunday** ending each weekly module. Students will demonstrate their ability to perform calculations, as well as their conceptual grasp of the statistical concepts discussed. Some assignments will require the use of SPSS. This software is available remotely through My Apps or in computer labs throughout campus. Students must show all of their work when performing calculations for homework questions and follow the homework instructions posted on Blackboard.

VI. GRADING SCALE

A = 90 – 100%

B = 80–89%

C = 70–79%

D = 60–69%

F = below 60%

VII. LATE WORK

Please regularly refer to Blackboard for links, documents, announcements, and calendar changes. You are responsible for being up-to-date on all class information that is posted on Blackboard. Although I will try to provide you with reminders for exams, you are ultimately responsible for submitting all assignments and exams on time. Note that, as with any online program, Blackboard may experience unexpected technical difficulties from time to time. For this reason, I strongly suggest that you do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments. Technical difficulties are no excuse for late submissions. **No late work will be accepted without prior approval if the reason is not considered excusable.**

VIII. INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

IX. TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: SPSS, Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

Some assignments will require the use of SPSS. This software is available remotely through My Apps or in computer labs throughout campus.

IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

X. NETIQUETTE

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It's possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

XI. ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

XII. SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

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 the words or ideas of another as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

XIII. COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org

XIV. COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

XV. Class Calendar

Week 1: 10/18-10/24

Introduction to Statistics/Descriptive Statistics

Chapters 1-3

Week 2: 10/25-10/31

Graphs/Correlations

Chapters 4 and 5

Week 3: 11/01-11/07

Hypothesis Testing/Probability

Chapters 7 and 8

Week 4: 11/08-11/14 Exam 1

Statistical Significance/Inferential Statistics: z-test

Chapters 9 and 10

Week 5: 11/15-11/21

Inferential Statistics: t-tests

Chapters 11 and 12

Week 6: 11/22-11/28

Inferential Statistics: Test of Correlation Coefficient and Nonparametric Tests

Chapters 15 and 17

Week 7: 11/29-12/3 Exam 2

Due December 1st: Paper

*Calendar subject to change