



**The University of Texas at El Paso**

**Department of Criminal Justice**

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**INSS 2304: STATISTICS FOR SECURITY STUDIES**

**CRN: 14211; FALL 2023**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on 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.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

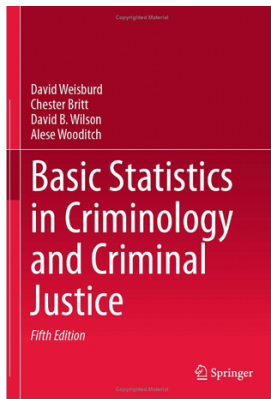
- 1) Understand the statistical concepts and methods necessary for quantitative analysis of security problems.
- 2) Analyze data by graphs, charts, descriptive statistics, and inferential statistical tests.
- 3) Apply quantitative reasoning to decision-making regarding intelligence and national security.

### **UTEP EDGE**

This course is designed with the UTEP Edge in mind. In this class, students will focus on improving several specific Edge Advantages: confidence in your knowledge of statistics for security studies, critical thinking, communication skills, and problem solving. These skills will be developed through consumption of class content and interpreting the statistical results of research papers.

To learn more about the UTEP EDGE: <https://www.utep.edu/edge/>

## REQUIRED MATERIALS



David Weisburd, Chester Britt, David B. Wilson, & Alese Wooditch. (2020). *Basic Statistics in Criminology and Criminal Justice* (5th edition). Switzerland: Springer

- ISBN: ISBN 978-3-030-47966-4
- ISBN 978-3-030-47967-1 (ebook is available through UTEP library)

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Your grade in this course will be determined by several components: 1) syllabus quiz, 2) weekly quizzes, 3) homework assignments, 4) exams, and 5) final paper.

### *Syllabus Quiz (10 points)*

There is syllabus quiz that is worth 10 points. You can take it as many times as you need. There is a time limit (60 minutes). This quiz will be due on **10/25 (Tue) @11:59pm MST**.

### *Homework Assignments (20 points \* 5 = 100 points total)*

There will be five homework assignments for this course which will be worth 20 points per each assignment. These assignments involve various activities that are related to each week's topic. Instruction for these assignments will be posted to Blackboard and should be turned in on Blackboard by **11:59pm MST on Thursdays**. If you fail to submit your work on time, you will get zero (0) point.

### *Weekly Quizzes (30 points \* 6 = 180 points total)*

There will be six quizzes, one per week. Each quiz will be taken on Blackboard and will be available first day of the week. Students will be given 30 mins to take each quiz; once the time is up, the answer will be automatically submitted, and students will not be allowed to continue taking the quiz. These quizzes are only allowed to take it once, so please take it when you are ready. The quizzes are composed mainly of the chapters that cover that week. Thus, to be successful on a quiz, students **MUST** read the textbook and watch mini lectures. There are no makeup quizzes. If students miss a quiz, they will be assigned a zero (0) on the quiz. Weekly quizzes will be due on **Fridays @11:59pm MST**.

### *Exams (100 points \* 2 = 200 points total)*

There will be one mid-term exam and one final exam, and each exam will be worth 100 points. The midterm exam (11/12, Sunday) will cover chapters 1 – 6. The final exam (12/8, Friday) will cover chapters 7 – 11. Exams will be taken on Blackboard and will be available for a 24-hour period, and the link will be closed at 11:59pm. Students will be given 90 minutes to take each exam, and once the time is up, the answers will be automatically submitted, and students will not be allowed to

continue taking the exam. Exam questions are similar to the homework problems and to problems that have already appeared on the quizzes.

There are no make-up exams without prior permission from the instructor. Permission will only be granted under special circumstances with appropriate documentation provided by the student. All exams must be made up within 24 hours of the original date.

### Using LockDown Browser for Online Exams

This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and Respondus Monitor for online exams. Watch the short video at this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuX8WoeAyCs) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuX8WoeAyCs>) to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.

Then download and install LockDown Browser following the instructions at this [link](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Files/docs/MM_Respondus-Student.pdf) ([https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Files/docs/MM\\_Respondus-Student.pdf](https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/Files/docs/MM_Respondus-Student.pdf)).

To take an online test, start LockDown Browser and navigate to the exam (You won't be able to access the exam with a standard web browser). Finally, when taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Select a location where you won't be interrupted.
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it.
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach.
- Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices.
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test.
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted; a scientific calculator will be on the screen during the exam.
- You will be required to have a webcam so that you can be monitored while taking the exam.
- Have your driver's license, ID card, or Miner's Gold Card available.

### *Final Paper (50 points)*

Students will be asked to read an article about a quantitative national security-related research paper and write a 1-2 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 grading rubric in Blackboard for a more detailed discussion of the criteria for this assignment. This paper is due **12/7 (Thu) @11:59pm MST**.

Please refer to the Writing Center if you need assistance with your written assignments. The University Writing Center is located in Library, Room 227. It is a great place to receive help with editing your written papers, and with APA style assistance. They are open M-Th 9:00-5:00 pm, Fr 9:00-2:00 pm, and Sundays 12:00-5:00pm. Appointments are recommended well before the deadline, but they will take walk-ins.

*Grade Distribution:*

Syllabus Quiz .....	10 points
Homework Assignments .....	100 points
Weekly Quizzes .....	180 points
Exams .....	200 points
Final paper .....	50 points
<hr/> Total.....	540 points

*Grade Scale*

Grad	Percentage
A	Above 90%
B	80% – 89.99%
C	70% – 79.99%
D	60% – 69.99%
F	Below 59.99%

*Policy on Late or Missed Exams/Assignments:*

You are required to notify me before the due date if an urgent situation arises and an assignment will not be submitted on time or an exam cannot be completed before the due date. Please follow the appropriate university policies to request an accommodation for religious practices or to accommodate a missed assignment due to university-sanctioned activities.

Late assignments/make-up exams will ONLY be permitted at the discretion of the instructor and will be contingent upon two requirements being met:

- a. Valid documentation of an emergency (e.g., physician’s note)
- b. Notification PRIOR to the due date

**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 download or update the following software: 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.

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!

## COURSE POLICIES

### *General*

This class will feature lectures, discussions, and a variety of activities to promote learning. To succeed in the class, it is essential that you keep up with readings, lectures, and assignments.

The grade you earn in this course will be based on the amount of effort you exert. If you need a specific grade for this course, be proactive and contact me as early and often as possible. I will make every effort to assist you in achieving your goals.

### *Dissemination Policy*

All the materials in this course, aside from that in the assigned text, should be considered as my intellectual property and, as such, under copyright protection. This includes my lectures, exams, written assignments, and notes. These are intended for your use during this course and may not be disseminated to anyone outside of the course without my explicit written permission.

### *Class Recordings*

Students may NOT record any portion of the course meetings without first obtaining my permission. This includes audio and video recordings. If permission is granted, these recordings cannot be shared with others outside of this course unless required by UTEP.

### *Email Policy (Contacting the Instructor)*

There are two ways you can contact me in this course. 1) Through your institutional email address. 2) Through the “send email” function under the course tools tab in Blackboard. I expect you to identify yourself within the body of the email. I also expect you to compose emails using standard word and sentence structure (i.e., no acronyms, slang, etc.). In other words, do not email me as if you are texting your friends.

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours under most circumstances from Monday through Friday. I will also do my best to check my email at least once on Saturdays and Sundays; however, at times I may not be able to respond over the weekends. Please plan accordingly.

### *Course Drop Policy*

If circumstances arise to where a student must drop this course, it is the student’s responsibility to initiate the course drop. It is also the student’s responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect his or her financial aid. Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.

- a) If a course is dropped within the first 2 weeks before the “official census date”:
  - a. the course will not appear on the transcript and
  - b. the course will not count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) If a course is dropped after the official census data but before the “course drop date”:
  - a. the student will receive a “W” in the course
  - b. the drop will show on transcripts but will not lower GPA
  - c. the drop will count toward the 6 class drop limit

- c) If the course is dropped after the “course drop date” or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc.:
  - a. UTEP requires the instructor to issue an “F” in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
  - b. the drop will count against the 6 class drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A “W” will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an “F” will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify me at: [tedickinson@utep.edu](mailto:tedickinson@utep.edu). Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

OR

I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar’s Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

### *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.

### *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). If you feel an accommodation is necessary please contact CASS at 915-747-5148 (tel) [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu) (email), visit them at Union Building East Room 106, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

### *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 ones' 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](#).

### *A Note about Sexual Misconduct*

What you should know about sexual misconduct: UTEP does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report complaints of potential sexual misconduct known to them to their campus Title IX Coordinator(s) to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. Any student who believes that he or she may be experiencing sexual harassment or misconduct is encouraged to consult with or report such conduct immediately to the Title IX Coordinators. Contact information for UTEP's Title IX Coordinators can be found here:

<http://utep.edu/titleix/Title%20IX%20Coordinators%20.html>

## **COURSE RESOURCES**

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.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

\* Students are responsible for reading all the required materials on the dates listed below.

\* I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed. Students are required to regularly check their UTEP email and Blackboard to look for communication of syllabus revisions.

### **Week 1:** October 23 – October 27

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 1. Introduction: Statistics as a Research Tool
- 2) Chapter 2. Measurement: The Basic Building Block of Research

To do:

- Due 10/25 (Tue) @11:59pm MST – Syllabus Quiz
- Due 10/27 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 1

### **Week 2:** October 30 (Census Day) – November 03

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 3. Representing and Displaying Data
- 2) Chapter 4. Describing the Typical Case: Measures of Central Tendency

To do:

- Due 11/02 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Homework Assignment 1
- Due 11/03 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 2

### **Week 3:** November 06 – November 10

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 5. How Typical is the Typical Case? Measuring Dispersion
- 2) Chapter 6. The Logic of Statistical Inference: Making Statements about Populations from Sample Statistics

To do:

- Due 11/09 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Homework Assignment 2
- Due 11/10 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 3
- Due 11/12 (Sun) @11:59pm MST – Mid-term Exam

### **Week 4:** November 13 – November 17

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 7. Defining the Observed Significance Level of a Test: A Simple Example using the Binomial Distribution

To do:

- Due 11/16 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Homework Assignment 3
- Due 11/17 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 4



**Week 5: November 20 – November 24 (Thanksgiving Holidays)**

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 8. Steps in a Statistical Test: Using the Binomial Distribution to make Decisions about Hypotheses

To do:

- Due 11/23 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Homework Assignment 4
- Due 11/24 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 5

**Week 6: November 27 – December 01 (Last day to withdraw – November 30)**

Required Readings:

- 1) Chapter 10. The Normal Distribution and its Application to tests of Statistical Significance
  - 2) Chapter 11. Comparing Means and Proportions in Two Samples to Test Hypothesis about Population Parameters
- Due 11/30 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Homework Assignment 5
  - Due 12/01 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Weekly Quiz 6

**Week 7: December 04 – December 08**

To do:

- Due 12/7 (Thu) @11:59pm MST – Final Paper
- Due 12/8 (Fri) @11:59pm MST – Final Exam