

STATISTICAL METHODS
PSYC 1303, CRN #24894
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
SPRING, 2017

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II. **TEXTBOOK**

Online Statistics Education: A Multimedia Course of Study (<http://onlinestatbook.com/>).
Project Leader: David M. Lane, Rice University.

Required software: Microsoft Excel (free from UTEP Bookstore or via my.app.utep.edu)

III. **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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

- Be familiar with basic statistical concepts.
- Be proficient with the use of Excel for calculations and creating graphs.
- Be proficient with JASP statistical software.
- Have a basic understanding of the research process.
- Be proficient with designing and carrying out a research project.
- Be able to analyze a data set.
- Be able to draw conclusions from analyses.
- Be able to properly convey statistical results in a research paper.

This is an online course in introductory statistics. All work will be completed on your computer and as such assumes that you are capable with basic functions of a computer (e.g. installing programs, uploading documents, scanning documents, email, etc.). It is the students' responsibility to download the required software and text. The instructor will not provide technical support. Furthermore, enrolling in this course assumes you have daily access to an internet connected computer that is capable of running all of the required software. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that their computer functions properly and that they have a consistent internet connection. Computer

crashes or internet outages will never excuse a course deadline. If a Blackboard outage occurs (as documented by UTEP's tech department), a deadline may be pushed back.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Homework assignments (25%)

There will be one homework assignment per week. The homework assignments are intended to consolidate your knowledge of the content covered during the course. You will be required to demonstrate your ability to perform calculations, as well as your conceptual grasp of the statistical concepts discussed. The assignments will be posted on Blackboard and must be turned on the due date. Some assignments will require the use of Excel. This software is available remotely through My Apps, in computer labs throughout campus, or in the UTEP bookstore. You must show all of your work when performing calculations for homework questions. Homework assignments are due by Sunday (the end of each week) before midnight. There will be a 2% point grade deduction for each day that a homework assignment is late.

B. Exams (50%)

There will be a mid-term and a final exam. The exams will include questions requiring you to perform calculations, interpret data from graphs or charts, interpret descriptive statistics and the results of statistical tests, and demonstrate your conceptual understanding of statistical concepts. You will NOT be required to memorize formulas. The second exam will not be cumulative. If you must miss the exams for any reason, you must contact me prior to the exams to discuss alternate arrangements. The exams will be offered in Blackboard for a 24-hour period and you will be given 2 hours to complete the exams. Information covered on the exam will be taken from the book. The scores on the exams will be adjusted so that the average score is 75% of the maximum possible points.

C. Data analysis paper (25%)

For this paper you will collect data from at least 30 individuals and conduct analyses that you have learned in class on these data. You must choose a research question to address and get approval from me by no later than the end of week 3, February 5th. Research questions can be anything psychological or health related (pending approval, as there are certain topics that would require formal ethical review, so I need to make sure your topic does not require such review. See the handout titled: UTEP IRB Guidance on Classroom Research). You will design a short survey in Qualtrics, send the link to others (class-mates, friends, family, co-workers, strangers) and perform appropriate

analyses on the data. You will write up a short APA-formatted research paper summarizing the findings. The paper should include a title page, abstract, introduction, methods section, results, and a discussion section. It must also include at least one table or graph. Be familiar with UTEP's academic honesty policy. Plagiarism or data fabrication will not be tolerated. Data fabrication is very easy to spot, and if I suspect it, I will conduct analyses on your raw data that will confirm it. There will be a 2% point grade deduction for each day that the paper is late. A paper turned in more than two days late will receive a grade of 0.

Grading rubric:

90% - 100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
Below 60%	F

IV. INSTRUCTOR ' S POLICIES

Neither the exams, nor the homework, are collaborative assignments. Academic dishonesty or cheating is simply unethical and not acceptable under any circumstances. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that involves “stealing” the words and thoughts of others. It is a very serious academic violation and cannot be tolerated. The most common form of plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper or other assignment without giving credit to the source of that information or wording. Plagiarism also includes the direct copying of a source verbatim (word for word) and incorporating that copied material into the student's paper or assignment without first paraphrasing with proper referencing or placing the copied text into a direct quotation, again with appropriate footnotes or citations. Students must use their own words when not using direct quotes sparingly and appropriately to provide examples, evidence, or illustrate specific points. Students cannot simply “cut and paste” wording or text from source material to artificially “construct” their papers, essays, and other assignments. This practice is also considered plagiarism, even if references are done properly.

Likewise, students must not submit work under their name that they did not do themselves. Students also may not submit work for this course that they produced for another course. If students are found to be cheating in any capacity including plagiarism and collusion, they will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Cases of academic dishonesty will be sent to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution for adjudication and possible sanctions. Possible penalties for academic dishonesty include a zero for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, suspension, and even expulsion from the university. Students are responsible for understanding their specific obligations to maintain academic integrity at all

times. Please refer to the following link for further information on UTEP's policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty: <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>.

If students have a disability that requires an accommodation, they may contact Disabled Student Services at 747-5148.

Please speak to me before you consider withdrawing from the class. Under Texas law, you may be penalized academically and financially for excessive class withdrawals. If you choose to discontinue attending the class and do not apply for a withdrawal from the class with the college, you are at risk of receiving an F. I will not drop you.

Please regularly refer to Blackboard for links, documents, announcements, and calendar changes.

Please engage in professional discourse in discussions. Disagreements are fine, personal attacks are not. Please be respectful to your classmates and toward me. I don't foresee issues in a stats course (as compared to, say, Ethics), but I will not tolerate racist, sexist, homophobic, or any other comments that disparage a group of people. Often times people use derogatory terms to express their displeasure without thinking through what such words actually mean. Think before you type (or re-read and edit before you post).

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED HELP

This is a difficult class for some students; you may need help from time to time. There will be a number of ways to get help completing assignments and/or understanding the concepts.

1. If you need help with something relatively small (i.e., something that won't require a lot of discussion to resolve), then email me. I always make my best effort to return emails within 24 hours.
2. If you need help with conceptual issues (not homework assignments, exams, or the critique), then you can post questions on the discussion board entitled "Peer-to-peer help" for other students to answer.
3. If you need help with something that can't be resolved via #1 or #2, then we can schedule a time to chat. We can do this either via phone, via Blackboard collaborate (a tool in Blackboard that allows us to video conference and use a whiteboard), via Skype or Facetime, or in person in my office.

If you need help with homework problems, I can give you some guidance (via #1 or #3) but I won't do the problem for you. However, after students have turned in homework assignments, you may request by email that I go over one or more homework problems that you may have lingering questions about. I will then post a video of me working out these problems on Blackboard.