

**STATISTICS FOR SECURITY STUDIES  
INSS 2304, CRN #28620  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO  
SPRING, 2020  
ONLINE COURSE**

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**II. TEXTBOOK**

Salkind, N. J., & Frey, B. B. (2020). *Statistics for people who think they hate statistics, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard.

**III. COURSE 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.

**IV. COURSE 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.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Exams (40%)

There will be two exams comprised of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions. The first exam will be on **April 12<sup>th</sup>** and the second exam will be on **May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Exams will be available on Blackboard for a 24-hour period. 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. All the information in the book will not necessarily be covered in the

Blackboard content. You are responsible for reading and knowing the assigned book material. Additionally, all the information covered in Blackboard content may not be in the book. You are responsible for accessing and reviewing all Blackboard content. The scores on the exam will be adjusted so that the average score is 75% of the maximum possible points.

#### B. 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. The results of the pre-test quiz will be available to students to review prior to accessing the module material, but not afterwards. After reviewing the module material, students will then take a post-test quiz, which will be identical to the pre-test quiz. The grades for the pre-test and post-test quizzes will be averaged to create one quiz score for each module.

#### C. Statistical analysis paper (20%)

Students will be given a data set and asked to use the data to answer a national security-related research question. Students will write a 3-5 page paper in which they will provide a brief background related to the research question, a brief overview about the data set and how the data were collected, a research hypothesis, statistical hypotheses, the results of the statistical tests used to answer the research question, and a discussion of the implications of those results for security concerns. See the grading rubric in Blackboard for a more detailed discussion of the criteria for this assignment. This paper is due by **April 29<sup>th</sup>**.

#### D. Results interpretation (15%)

Students will be asked to read an article about a quantitative national security-related research study. Students will then 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 the grading rubric in Blackboard for a more detailed discussion of the criteria for this assignment. This paper is due by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

#### E. Homework (15%)

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 AT THE END**

A = 90 – 100%  
B = 80 – 89%  
C = 70 – 79%  
D = 60 – 69%  
F = below 60%

NOTE: Final grades are a weighted average of assignment and exam grades. Final grades are not curved.

#### **VII. TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS**

For all technological, hardware, software problems, lost files, and/or questions with Blackboard, as well as difficulties you are having during an exam, contact Technology Support Help Desk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tech support is set up to specifically address technical questions and problems about Blackboard.

Professors are not technical support staff.

Phone: E-mail: Website: In Person:

915.747.4357 or toll free: 1-877-382-0491

<https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

UTEP Library, Room 300

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.

#### **CHECK YOUR TECHNOLOGY**

- A. Computer with a reliable internet connection. Mobile devices are not reliable to access exams and use the discussion board.
- B. Blackboard (BB) Learning Management System. The entire course is run through UTEP's BB system, so students must activate and use their BB accounts regularly. Always log in using your UTEP name and password, and never as a "guest" (the guest option will kick you out after 15-20 minutes, which is problematic when taking a test because you will not be able to finish your test). All students are responsible for regularly logging in and checking for posted announcements, submitting assignments, participating in discussion boards, and taking tests through BB. Contact

- UTEP tech support for any questions or concerns regarding navigating in BB or learning how to do something in BB.
- C. Browser Information (See the left side of the menu on the main BB page for hardware, software, and browser checks) Firefox seems to consistently work the best, but other supported Browsers include Chrome, Safari, and Internet Explorer. Be sure to “Allow pop-ups” for Blackboard Clear your browser cache
  - D. Verify that you have the most updated version of “Java” <http://java.com>.
  - E. All word documents should be saved with a “docx” extension identifying it as a Microsoft Word file or compatible with MS Word, Windows Media Player, Quick Time, Adobe Reader, Adobe Flash Player

### **VIII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

None of the assignments in this course are collaborative assignments. If you are suspected of cheating or of collaborating with other students on these assignments, I will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If you are suspected of plagiarism, I will follow the University’s policy regarding student dishonesty, which may result in a grade of zero and referral to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

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. You must use their own words when not using direct quotes. Direct quotes should be used sparingly and only when appropriate to provide examples, evidence, or illustrate specific points. You 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, you must not submit work under your name that they did not do yourself. You also may not submit work for this course that you produced for another course. If you are found to be cheating in any capacity including plagiarism and collusion, you 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. You 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/>.

#### **IX. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, you may contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 747-5148.

#### **X. UTEP COURSE DROP POLICY**

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, students are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect 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. Students who drop a course before the "official census date," the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn't count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- B. Dropping a course after the official census date, but before the "course drop date" will generate a "W" in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a "W" does not lower your GPA. However, a "W" counts against your 6-drop limit.
- C. If the course is dropped after the "course drop date" or if the student just stops participating, taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
- D. UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of too many times the student fails to submit assignments, discussion questions, or because of disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP student email account. A "W" or an "F" will be issued. A "W" for these reasons counts against the 6-drop limit.

#### **XI. STUDENT CONDUCT**

This course takes place in an online environment and, therefore, requires students to interact with each other and the instructor through digital means. Digital communication differs from face-to-face communication in important ways. First, written communication may be taken out of context because it lacks nonverbal cues to the sender's meaning. Second, digital communication is "posted" or "sent" and, therefore, is easily reproduced. Third, digital communicators may, in some cases, be more prone to engage in hostile or disrespectful behavior towards one another than they would in face-to-face discussions. Therefore, it is important for all students in this course to carefully consider the meaning of their posts before making them. Proofread your posts for grammatical and spelling errors, but also to ensure that your meaning is clear and that the posts will not be misinterpreted by others. You must be

respectful of other students and of all opinions. All comments should be free of vulgar, offensive, and/or discriminatory language. If you believe that other students have made inappropriate posts or communicated with you in an inappropriate manner, please bring this to the instructor's attention. While it is appropriate to share your opinion on particular issues, your opinion should be presented as such (not as a fact) and should be supported by valid, factual arguments. You may also provide constructive criticism of other opinions. Constructive criticism is provided respectfully and professionally, criticizing the merit of the arguments or the veracity of the facts not the person.

Further, students should ensure that all emailed communication is written using appropriate etiquette. Please use a salutation (for example, "Dear Dr. Duke", or "Hello Dr. Duke"), a clear and thorough communication of your question or concern, and a closing (for example, "Thanks, Bill Martinez" or "Sincerely, Angel Gomez"). Make sure to proofread your emails for grammar, spelling, and clear meaning. Also, please be sure to indicate the course title or number in your email.

**XII. CLASS CALENDAR\***

**Week 1: 3/16-3/22**

***Introduction to Statistics/Descriptive Statistics***

Chapters 1-3

**Week 2: 3/23-3/29**

***Graphs/Correlations***

Chapters 4 and 5

**Week 3: 3/30-4/5**

***Hypothesis Testing/Probability***

Chapters 7 and 8

**Week 4: 4/6-4/12**

***Statistical Significance/Inferential Statistics: z-test***

Chapters 9 and 10

**April 12<sup>th</sup>: Exam 1**

**Week 5: 4/13-4/19**

***Inferential Statistics: t-tests***

Chapters 11 and 12

**Week 6: 4/20-4/26**

***Inferential Statistics: Test of Correlation Coefficient and Nonparametric Tests***

Chapters 15 and 17

**Week 7: 4/27-5/3**

**Due April 29<sup>th</sup>: Results Interpretation**

**Due May 1<sup>st</sup>: Statistical Analysis Paper**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Exam 2**

\*Calendar subject to change