

Fall 2016

University of Texas at El Paso
Sociology & Anthropology Department

Measure/Inference-Social Research
SOCI 2312 CRN 14267

TR 12:00-1:20 p.m.
UGLC 342

Instructor: Dr. Maria Cristina Morales

Office: Old Main 312

*email: Blackboard email is the most efficient way to contact me).

Office hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10:30-11:50 p.m. OR by appointment

TA: Jigme Choden

Email: jchoden2@miners.utep.edu

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the logic and uses of statistical techniques in social research to meet the following objectives:

- To provide students with a critical understanding of how to explain social science phenomenon using numbers.
- To gain an understanding of basic statistical concepts such as descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, probability theory, and hypothesis testing.
- To understand which type of statistic is best suited for specific situations.
- To work toward an understanding of statistics that will enable the student to critically evaluate research and media reports that use statistical techniques.
- To give students the foundation to conduct their own research.

NOTE: You will NOT be memorizing formulas, theorems or other miscellaneous information.

Course Materials

- Text: Healey, Joseph. 2013. The Essentials of Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, 3rd Edition. Thomson Wadsworth: Belmont, CA.
Note: you can rent this book or use an older edition. If you choose to use an older edition be aware that the homework problems may be different in the newer edition. It is your responsibility to make sure you have the correct homework problems.
- A basic scientific calculator. You can find them for as little as \$12. You may **NOT** use a cell phone as a calculator for quizzes or final exam.
- Note: I also suggest you keep all your class materials in one notebook. *You will need to bring all your class materials with you to every class.* This includes your textbook, your calculator, your old homework assignments, handouts, and your notes.

Course Requirements

Attendance: You are responsible for any announcements made in class and I will be collecting homework during the class period. Our class time together is extremely important. It provides you with the opportunity to ask questions, receive clarification, and to work out problems together. Class interactions also provide the opportunity for me to assess your level of understanding and engagement with the material. Since I follow the pace of the class it is possible that we may fall behind or ahead the course schedule so you need to attend class to find out exactly where we are at in the course materials. Additionally, the dates of quizzes will be finalized during class. For all of these reasons, it is in your best interest to attend class regularly.

Homework: You are required to complete homework assignments after each chapter. Make sure you bring ALL of your homework to each class session. You must show ALL of work in your homework! I will return homework assignments that are illegible or does not demonstrate how you arrived at your answers. I will deduct 10 points a day for late homework assignments.

A Note about Working Together: Group work is encouraged on homework assignments. However, the final product you submit for any assignment in this class MUST BE YOUR OWN WORK. It is to your benefit that you work through the problems on your own since the quizzes and the final exam will have similar problems. Please see me if you are *unclear about what constitutes plagiarism and/or cheating in this class*.

Quizzes: We have five quizzes scheduled approximately every other week. Note, there might be less quizzes if it is taking us longer to grasp the material. Quizzes are open notes and will cover material covered in class AND in your homework. For the quizzes, you may use ONE 8 ½" X 11" sheet of paper with notes (you may use both sides). As with the homework, you must show all your work. Your quiz grade is based not only on the final answer, but also on how you arrived at that answer. You can get partial credit on quiz problems, but only if you show your work. Do not forget your calculator on a quiz day. A forgotten calculator is not an excuse for missing a quiz or doing poorly. Only under emergency circumstances can you make up a quiz. You must email me prior to the scheduled quiz if you have an emergency or illness (with a doctor's note or proof of emergency) that prevents you from taking a quiz.

Final Exam: Due to the nature of the material, the final exam is cumulative and you may use both sides of TWO 8 ½" X 11" sheets of paper with notes for your final exam. Again, you must show ALL of your work on the final exam. Only under emergency circumstance can you make up the final exam at a later time. You must email me within 24 hours of the exam if you have an emergency or illness (with a doctor's note) that prevents you from taking the final.

Grading Summary: It is very important that you show all your work on your assignments, quizzes and final exam. Part of your grade is based on how you work out problems; therefore you must show the process you used to arrive at your final answers.

GRADING & EVALUATION

	Percentage of Final Course Grade
Homework	30
Quizzes (5 @ 10% each)	50
Final Exam	20

Final letter grades system:

	Percent
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	< 60

Tutoring

The Math Resource Center for Students (MaRCS) provides walk-in and face-to-face tutoring (<http://math.utep.edu/marcs/>) if you need to.

Communication Policy

- Best way to contact Dr. Morales is through the blackboard email for our course. I have about 150 students and get about 100 emails a day at the UTEP email. Additionally, the UTEP email nests the conversations and therefore it is very easy to miss an email.
- Calling via phone is not a reliable way to communicate.
- You should allow 48 hours for response to an e-mail Monday through Friday.
- Please be respectful on your emails addressed to Dr. Morales, the TA, and all of your classmates.
- Dr. Morales, and the TA, will be available regarding questions about the content or any issues about the material.

How do you pass this course?

To do well in this course, I recommend attending class sessions and completing assigned readings and homework assignments. It is essential to keep up with the reading. If you get behind in the reading you will have a difficult time when new concepts are introduced. If you do not understand a particular method do the odd problems at the end of the chapter. The answers for the odd problems are at the end of your book. You need to understand the material in each chapter so that you can proceed to the next.

Other Important Information

Please be aware that the Disabled Student Services (Union East, room 106, Tel. 747-5148) provides a program of support and advocacy services to students with disabilities. Come and talk with the instructor if you need additional support because of a disability.

Any form of cheating is academic misconduct. Failing to credit sources in an attempt to pass off as one's own is plagiarism. Attribute the source of actual words and the information used in your writing. Fabrication of material and copying/plagiarism is prohibited, including the use of unattributed excerpts from articles, news releases, reports, handouts, journal articles, other student work, web sites, encyclopedias, etc. Penalties for plagiarism are severe, even for unintentional failure to cite sources. If you have questions about proper attribution, please consult me before turning in an assignment in question. Students should review UTEP sites on plagiarism (<http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/faculty-staff-resources/resources-links/>).

Students who represent UTEP at any official extracurricular activity shall have the opportunity to make up assignments, but the student must provide official written notification no less than one week prior to missing the class(es).

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Note: this is a tentative schedule and is subject to change depending on how well students grasp the material. Weekly homework assignments and quizzes to be announced in class.

Week	Subject Matter	Reading Assignment
1	Introduction to class; syllabus; defining our goals for the semester; and level of measurement.	Chapter 1
2	Basic Descriptive Statistics: Percentages, Ratios and Rates, Frequency Distributions	Chapter 2
3	Charts and Graphs	Chapter 2
4	Measures of Central Tendency: Mode, Median, and Mean	Chapter 3
5	Measures of Dispersion: Range, Variance, and Standard Deviation	Chapter 4
6	Normal Curve	Chapter 5
7	Normal Curve (continued)	Chapter 5
8	Introduction to Inferential Statistics, the Sampling Distribution, and Estimation	Chapter 6
9	Hypothesis Testing I (One Sample Case)	Chapter 7
10	LAB	
11	Hypothesis Testing II (Two Sample Case)	Chapter 8
12	Hypothesis Testing III: Analysis of Variance	Chapter 9
13	Hypothesis Testing IV: Chi-Square	Chapter 10
14	Last Quiz	
15	Review for final exam	
16	Cumulative final exam Tues., Dec 6th 1:00 pm –3:45 pm	