Psyc 1303: Statistical Methods
CRN: 31295
Meets: M-F 11:40 a.m-1:50 p.m. in UGLC 208

Instructor: Randy Taylor, M.A.
Contact: rstaylor@utep.edu (not at miners.utep.edu)
Office hours: Psyc 209, tbd or by appointment


Learning Objectives:

1. Understand how and why to organize/draw meaningful interpretations from raw data sets using descriptive statistics.

2. Be able to choose, perform, and interpret a variety of statistical procedures on raw data using inferential statistics.

3. Understand, at a conceptual level, the reasoning behind the application of statistical methods as they relate to the study of the behavioral sciences.

4. Demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge surrounding the use of statistics as a whole and become a more critical consumer of statistical information presented to you on a daily basis.

Course Overview:

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the statistical methods commonly used in the behavioral sciences. The course will introduce statistical procedures and concepts by utilizing concrete examples from popular areas of research. Statistical theory and practice is integral in all areas of psychology (as well as most of the behavioral sciences) and this course will provide you with an understanding of the basic procedures and theory utilized throughout the field. Upon completion of this course you should be able to calculate a variety of statistical analyses and also understand the reasoning behind the use of those procedures.

Grading:

Exams: There will be three exams throughout the summer session. Exams are tentatively scheduled for 06/17, 06/27, 07/01. The average of the three exams will count as 65% of your final grade. Exams will be open book/notes, meaning that you can use your book and notes while you take each exam. However, be aware that the exams will be long enough such that you will not have time to rely solely on your book and notes. In
other words, do not assume that this will dramatically improve your performance on your exams. I strongly recommend that you make study sheets in preparation for exams.

**Homework/in class assignments:** There will be a variety of assignments that will be handed out randomly. These assignments will count as 35% of your final grade.

**Extra credit:** Students can decide to complete an extra credit project to be turned in on the day of exam 3 (07/01). For this assignment the student will choose two stories from the mainstream media (traditional news outlets) that report statistical information. Students will then write a review/critique of the information provided in each story. Each review should summarize the information presented (what data is being analyzed? What procedures are being used? What conclusions are being drawn? etc) as well as discuss what limitations or inaccuracies are included in the reports (is the information being misrepresented? Was the statistical information reported appropriate/complete? Are the conclusions being drawn reasonable? etc). I have not yet decided how this extra credit will be implemented in the student’s final grade but it will be commensurate with the work required/completed.

**Grading Scale:** A= 90-100, B= 80-89, C= 70-79, D= 60-69, F= 59 and below

**Policies:**

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to know and follow University policy regarding academic dishonesty (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism and collusion). **Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.**

**Disabilities:** If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass. CASS’ Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

**Late work/Make up exams:** Late work/make up exams will only be considered in cases of documented emergency or University approved absence. Any circumstances that will require students to miss an exam must be discussed with the instructor beforehand so that arrangements can be made to complete the assignment. No exams will be handed out after the first exam has been turned in. In other words, if you arrive late to class and the first exam has already been turned in, you have missed the exam.

**Written notice policy:** I require that any requests or inquiries must be made via email (to the email provided on this syllabus) so that a record of the request is saved. This includes but is not limited to, grading disputes, information requests, requests for appointments etc. I will make every effort to respond to any written request/inquiry in a
timely manner, generally within 24 hours. This response time may increase on weekends and during holidays.

Note: Emails should be constructed in a professional manner. This includes but is not limited to, including your name and ID number in your email and using an appropriate and professional tone in your dialogue (Do not write in all caps, do not use text abbreviations such as “lol”, do not send smiley or winky faces etc).

Note: Remember that I am also available for office hours as listed above and encourage students to schedule time to meet in person.

Etiquette: By registering for and attending this course you are entering into a contract of sorts. You are agreeing to the information above regarding grading and course structure etc. You are also agreeing to behave like adults attending a University. Please refrain from behaving in a manner that either your fellow students, or the instructor, may find distracting or inappropriate. This includes but is not limited to talking/texting on your phone (ringtones off), talking to your friends sitting next to you during lecture, hitting up hotties on tinder/facebook etc. I, in turn, agree to abide by the guidelines laid out in this syllabus as well as carry out my duties as instructor in an effective and professional manner.

Information on this syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to modify information on this syllabus and class schedule. Any changes will be subject to two conditions:
1. Reasonable notification of the change is given to the students
2. The change does not unfairly disadvantage the students.

Course Schedule:

This course schedule is tentative and may change as we progress through the material.

06-06: Greetings, introductions, syllabus, frequency distributions

06-07: Graphic representation, central tendency

06-08: Variability

06-09: Normal distribution and standard scores

06-10: Review, (potential assignment)

06-13: Correlation

06-14: Correlation, regression

06-15: Regression
06-16: Regression, review (potential assignment)

06-17: Exam 1

06-20: Probability/sampling distributions, one sample z test

06-21: One sample z test, estimation

06-22: One sample t test, Independent samples t test

06-23: Independent samples t test, dependent samples t test

06-24: Dependent samples t test, review (potential assignment)

06-27: Exam 2

06-28: One way ANOVA

06-29: One way ANOVA, Chi square

06-30: Chi square, review (potential assignment)

07-01: Exam 3