

Psych stats 1303 – Frankowski Fall 2016

Instructor: Scott Frankowski, M.A.

TA: TBA

Email: sdfrankowski@utep.edu. I will answer emails within 24 hours M-F. Weekend emails *may* be answered during the weekend, but may not be answered until Monday.

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday after class-3pm

Required Text: www.onlinestatbook.com (free); please download the .pdf on day 1.

Web-based apps: Qualtrics survey-software. SPSS through my.apps.utep. A student version is available to you through UTEP: utep.qualtrics.com. Use your UTEP sign-in to access.

Drop date: October 28th. I don't approve late drops except under the most extraordinary circumstances with sufficient documentation.

Accommodation Services: If you have a disability and need 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.

Course Objectives. Upon completion of this course, successful students ought to:

- Be familiar with basic statistical concepts.
- Understand current debates in science surrounding replicability of research
- Be proficient with SPSS 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

Successful students in this course will have a foundation of statistical skills and research experience to get further involved in research in the university and beyond.

This is an introductory course in statistics and methodology focused on social science research. In this course you'll learn the basics of many statistical analyses. Students who are successful in this course will learn to do long tedious equations by hand, will understand what these numbers mean, and also how to analyze and interpret both small and large data sets in a statistical analysis computer program (SPSS). We will also focus on current debates in psychological sciences (and in science in general) surrounding the replicability of scientific findings. Finally, students will carry out their own research project in groups and will write up and present their findings to the class.

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Grading:

Exams (30%): two exams each worth 15% of your final grade.

Homework (30%): Three HW assignments each worth 10% of final grade

Group project (30%): Conduct a research experiment or study, analyze the data using analyses learned in this course, write up results in an APA formatted paper, and present the paper to the class at the end of the semester

Other stuff (10%): Both take-home and in class exercises. Mostly to prepare you for exams.

≥ 90 % = A

≥ 80% = B

≥ 70% = C

≥ 60% = D

Extra credit: Up to 7% extra credit for participating in research (1% for each hour of research participation). I'll create a post on Blackboard which will have more information about this.

Exams: These will be fairly extensive as each exam will cover a half of the semester's worth of material. You'll be allowed one crib sheet (front and back) with notes and equations (hand written, not photo-copied).

Homework: Homework assignments will consist of using SPSS to analyze a data set, doing equations by hand, and writing essays about current issues surrounding the use of statistics in science.

Group project: In the first couple weeks of the class I will assign groups of 4-5 that you will work with to complete a research project. You will come up with a topic – a research question to answer – get the topic approved by me, collect data, analyze the data using the analyses we cover in class, write up a paper of the experiment or study, and present the results to the class. Each group member is expected to contribute equally to the project and the paper will include a “contributions” section in which each member's contributions are outlined. I'll post more about this on Blackboard and include a detailed rubric.

Other stuff: Some days you may just get points for showing up to class. Other times, you may have to do an analysis by hand (prep for the exam), or post to Blackboard, or write a few paragraphs about a topic.

Late policy or missed exams: I won't allow late work or missed exams except under the most extraordinary circumstances provided sufficient documentation. If such circumstances arise, it will be your responsibility to contact me prior to the deadline/exam date – no exceptions.

Academic dishonesty: You are expected to know and follow UTEP policy regarding academic conduct and honesty. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student,

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possessing unauthorized materials during a test or falsifying research data. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions (which will be my recommendation to the Dean). UTEP's student code of conduct and discipline can be found here: <http://admin.utep.edu/LinkClick.aspx?link=HOOP-Section+II.pdf&tabid=30181&mid=63285>