SYA4400 Social Statistics, Spring 2020

Course Information

- **Course Hours:** 11:35am-12:50pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays
- **Course Meeting Location**
  - Tuesdays = Fisher Lecture Hall, Room 255
  - Thursday = Zoom synchronous session
- **Credit Hours:** 3 hours
- **Prerequisites:** None

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to statistics and their uses in the social sciences. Students will learn how social scientists represent aspects of the empirical world (e.g., wealth and health) as distributions, characterize those distributions in terms of typicality and diversity, and use sampling and statistical theory to make informed guesses about what society looks like and how social relationships operate based on sample data. At the end of the course students will have proficiency in using statistical analysis software to generate descriptive and inferential statistics on a national sample of youth/adults, and to interpret what those statistics mean in terms of social stratification and mobility in the US.

Course Instructor

John Reynolds
Professor of Sociology
jreynolds@fsu.edu or john.reynolds@fsu.edu
(850) 644-6416
427 Bellamy
Tues 1-3PM and by appointment; Zoom meeting or F2F

Emails will be responded to within 24 to 48 hours.

Learning Objectives

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compute/interpret the mean, median, mode, range, IQR, variance, and standard deviation.
2. Describe the shape of distributions (symmetry vs. asymmetry, uni- vs. multi-modal, etc.).
3. Translate z-scores on the standard normal curve into ranges of areas under that curve.
4. Calculate and interpret the standard error of the sample mean.
5. Conduct hypothesis testing related to the differences between two or more groups.
6. Conduct hypothesis testing related to the relationship between two variables.
7. Use Stata to analyze social science data and meaningfully interpret the results.
8. Accurately interpret quantitative analyses that are published in peer-reviewed journals.
Course Materials

Required

- Probability Distribution app by Matt Bognar for Android or Iphone, or his applet website.
- A scientific hand calculator for calculating sums, squared #s, square roots, etc. during exams. Does NOT need to be an expensive graphing calculator. Something like TI-30X or TI-30Xa is fine and less than $20. Optionally, you may use your phone's calculator app during the exam if you verify your phone is in airplane mode at the beginning of the exam.

Student Responsibilities

- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignment by due dates.
- Assignments, quizzes, and exams are expected to be products of individual students as per the FSU Academic Honor Policy. Students should not discuss the questions with each other before or during the actual assignments, quizzes, or exams without instructor approval.
- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, follow word limits as instructed, and use spell and grammar checking.
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all assignments and tests.

Course Requirements

1. Read the assigned chapter before class; attend class prepared to participate by responding to instructor's questions or in small student groups / breakout rooms.
2. Do the data analysis problems using Stata and submit your statistical output and worksheet on Canvas by 11am on Thursdays. These count for 20% of your grade.
3. Complete the problems at the end of the week’s assigned chapter and submit your answers on Canvas by 11am on Thursdays, for another 20% of your grade.
4. Attend every class on time. On Tuesdays, you may either attend face-to-face (preferred!) or on Zoom. Thursdays you must attend on Zoom. Unexcused absences will affect your course grade as follows: 0-2 = no penalty; 3-5 = course grade reduced by 3 percentage points; 6-9 = course grade reduced by 10 percentage points; 10 or more = automatic F. Being late to class (> 5 minutes) repeatedly will also hurt your grade.
5. Solve problems and ask questions in class on Tuesday; work collaboratively in groups on Thursdays. Class participation in groups and individually accounts for 10% of your grade and will be checked throughout the semester.
6. Take (3) unit quizzes using Honorlock; 30% of your grade is based on the quizzes.
7. Complete the comprehensive final exam using Honorlock for 20% of your grade.
Grading Policy

Chapter Exercises and Stata Analyses (20 points each, 40 points total)

All students are expected to come to class on time, to have read the assigned chapter and completed either the data analysis problem or the chapter exercises, and are prepared to ask questions and participate in discussion groups. Data analysis problems and chapter exercises will be graded as Satisfactory (2 points), Incomplete/Partial Effort (1 point) or Missing (0 points).

Class Participation (10 points)

In addition to answering questions in class, students are expected to actively participate in small groups. Group time will be used to go over solutions to chapter exercises and to compare data analyses problems. We’ll change groups periodically so you get to know a range of students.

Unit Quizzes (30 points)

The course material is divided into three units. At the end of each unit, students will take a timed, open-note quiz with online proctoring (HonorLock). Based on my 20+ years of experience teaching statistics to social science majors, the best way to ensure you pass this class is to attend EVERY class, do EVERY assigned chapter and data analysis exercise, be an ACTIVE PARTICIPANT in your group, and EARLY ON seek the instructor’s help if you run into difficulty.

Cumulative Final Exam (20 points)

The final exam covers material from all of the three units; the final exam will be timed with online proctoring (HonorLock). The exam will take place from 10am to noon on Monday of exam week (https://registrar.fsu.edu/registration_guide/spring/exam_schedule/).

Grade Scheme

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 % to 93.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>&lt; 93.0 % to 90.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>&lt; 90.0 % to 87.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>&lt; 87.0 % to 83.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>&lt; 83.0 % to 80.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>&lt; 80.0 % to 77.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>&lt; 63.0 % to 60.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60.0 % to 0.0%</td>
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</tbody>
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Technology Requirements

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to view videos, write and upload assignments, post to discussion boards, and take assessments. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. Mobile devices may be used to view course content, upload assignments, and take assessments as determined by the instructor. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the FSU Canvas support site.

Proctored Exams-Tallahassee

REMOTE PROCTORING

You can find information for taking proctored online exams on the Distance Learning website and in the Honorlock Resources for Students reference. There is currently no need to pay a fee, select a proctor, or make an exam appointment. If you need accommodations for a disability during testing, please work with FSU’s Office of Accessibility Services and your instructor.

Please pay close attention to information in this Canvas course site regarding examination dates and student responsibilities.

ON-CAMPUS PROCTORING

If you are unable to use Honorlock to complete your exams, please contact the instructor of this course within the first 2 weeks of the semester. It will be at the discretion of your instructor and FSU’s Testing Center to determine whether you meet the criteria necessary to take an exam on campus. Signup slots will be created only for special cases where you are unable to have your exam proctored by Honorlock.

If you are approved to complete your exams at FSU’s Testing Center, please keep the following in mind:

- If you need accommodations for a disability during testing, please follow these instructions regarding accommodation during testing.
- You will be required to wear a mask while inside the testing facility. Be sure to closely read FSU’s other Testing Center Rules prior to your arrival so that there are no surprises.
- The testing center is located in Stadium Center C, near the Sportsmanship Statue. See Hours, Parking, and Directions for more details.
- You may not have access to an in-person, off-campus proctor due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have questions about your particular situation, please email testing@campus.fsu.edu.

Canvas Support

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:
Email: help@campus.fsu.edu
Phone: (850) 644-8004
Website: distance.fsu.edu/canvas
Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday
Course Policies

Communications/Netiquette

For Email Communication:

- For email, please respond to your instructor’s and peers’ messages within a 24-hour period.
- Use a brief description in the subject line that outlines the topic of discussion.
- Avoid using slang or profane words.
- Use your instructor’s correct title he or she prefers for communication.
- Avoid using emoticons, such as smiley faces, and maintain a professional demeanor.
- Sign your email messages using your full name.
- AVOID USING ALL CAPS. This makes the message visually difficult to read and is perceived by the reader as "shouting."
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, just as you would for any communication.
- Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read it. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
- Refrain from "flaming," which is expressing a strongly held opinion without tact or regard for others. Don’t assume that recipients will know the intent of the message (e.g., "just kidding"). It reads differently when it’s in print (electronic or not).
- Report any inappropriate communication considered to be of a serious nature to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.
- Treat others with respect by making messages clear and succinct.

Participation & Lateness Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Policy for Missed Tests

Printed documentation is required for an absence to be excused. Writing me an email or text or explaining in person why you were absent does not constitute sufficient documentation. You must provide me a copy of the printed documentation and keep a copy for your own records. Having an excused absence will permit you to make up a missed quiz. All make up quizzes will be given at the end of the semester. If you miss a quiz for other reasons, you will get a 0 for that quiz.

Policy for Homework

Chapter Problems and Data Analysis Assignments are due before class begins on Thursdays and will receive 0, 1, or 2 points depending on whether they were not completed, partially completed, or fully completed. Late assignments are not accepted except in the case of excused absences--students with excused absences should submit their assignments in advance if possible or within 3 days of the due date to receive credit.

Policy on Responding to Students
• Email responses typically within 24 to 48 hours.
• Graded assignments typically returned within 2 weeks after due date.

University Policies

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and... [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (For more details see the FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations.)

Americans With Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center and (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
Email: sdrc@admin.fsu.edu

Free Tutoring from FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services' comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options - email: tutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by
appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

"Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice."

**Course Summary**

All course assignments and texts with due dates are listed below. To be successful in this course, be sure to complete all required assignments and tests by the due date.