

**Brescia University College
Department of Sociology
Sociology 2205A Section 530
Statistics for Sociology
Fall 2013**

Instructor: Jennifer Reynolds

E-mail: jnugent5@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-1:30pm (Location TBA)

Class Times: Wednesdays 9:30am-12:20pm

Class Location: BR 18

Computer Lab: Brescia Library Instructional Computer Lab

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with both an introduction to the techniques of statistical analysis used by sociologists as well as an introduction to a statistical computer software package (SPSS) that is useful for analyzing and interpreting statistical data. Students will be introduced to a variety of univariate and bivariate techniques, including descriptive statistics, the normal curve, hypothesis testing and various measures of association. Although some basic mathematical skills are required for this course, it is more important that students understand why, when, and how to use particular statistical techniques.

Course Objectives

After completing this course students will be able to:

- calculate and interpret basic univariate and bivariate statistics
- have a basic understanding of SPSS and how to successfully use it to analyze data
- understand why, when, and how to use a variety of statistical techniques to analyze data
- have the ability to readily and successfully interpret statistics in a research paper

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in Sociology 1020 or 1021E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Required Text

Healey & Prus. (2013). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. Second Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education Limited.

Study Guide for Healey's *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research* (any edition). (Recommended)

Note: Students are required to have a basic statistical calculator.

EVALUATION

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on three exams and an SPSS assignment.

(1) Test #1 (25%)

(2) Test #2 (25%)

Tests 1 and 2 will be held during class time, and will consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and problems. You are able to use a calculator and may bring and use one 8.5 x 11 “cheat sheet” for each test.

(3) SPSS Assignment (20%)

For this assignment, you will be responsible for completing a number of tasks as the course progresses. A good resource for this assignment is the SPSS examples and exercises at the end of the chapters in the Healey text. The assignment will be due at the beginning of the last class.

We will discuss the assignment in greater detail, and a rubric will be provided, once the term has begun. The assignment is to be completed and submitted individually, and late assignments will be penalized 5% per day.

Note: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

(4) Final exam (30%)

The final exam will be held during the April examination period. It will be 2 ½ hours long, and will consist of a combination of multiple choice questions and problems. The exam will also include one or two SPSS analytical questions. You are able to use a calculator and may bring and use one 8.5 x 11 “cheat sheet” for the final exam.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Required Readings (*Read <i>before</i> class*)
<i>Sept. 11</i>	<u>Introduction to Statistics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purposes and limitations of statistics • Measurement and statistics • Levels of measurement 	Chapter 1
<i>Sept. 17, 24, Oct. 2</i>	<u>Univariate Statistics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency distributions and graphs • Measures of central tendency • Measures of dispersion • The normal curve and standard scores 	Chapters 2-4
<i>Oct. 9</i>	TEST #1	*Review Chapters 1-4*
<i>Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6</i>	<u>Inferential Statistics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sampling distribution • Parameter estimation • Hypothesis testing 	Chapters 5-10
<i>Nov. 13</i>	TEST #2	*Review Chapters 5-10*
<i>Nov. 20, 27</i>	<u>Bivariate Distributions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bivariate table • Normal tests of independence and measures of association • Ordinal measures of association • Proportional reduction in error interpretations • Introducing third variables 	Chapters 11-13
<i>Dec. 4</i>	<u>Simple Regression and Correlation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The line of best fit • The principle of least squares • Pearson's correlation 	Chapter 14
<i>TBA</i>	FINAL EXAM	*Review Chapters 11-14*

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner .

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2012/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one

or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams: Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html. The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.