

Brescia University College, at  
Western University

2017

**Sociology 2205A: Statistics for Sociology**  
Section 531

Prof. E. Bell

Office: 213 Merici Wing, Brescia

Classes

Wednesdays 10:30 am - 1:30 pm  
Room BR-303

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Wednesdays 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Or by appointment:

519-432-8353 ext.28236

eabell@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the techniques of statistical analysis used in sociological research, including descriptive statistics, the normal curve, hypothesis testing, and various measures of association. In class, calculations will be done by hand using a pocket calculator. SPSS software will be used for the assignments.

A pocket calculator that has a square root function (and preferably a memory) is required for this course.

Textbook

Healey, Joseph F., and Steven G. Prus

2016 *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, Third Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson Education.

## Brescia Competencies

Brescia courses are designed to develop students' competencies in a number of different areas (see <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/brescia-competencies/>). This course is designed to create a learning environment in which you will develop your competency in:

- 1) ***Critical thinking***, in particular how to think analytically and statistically about the world around you, and how to evaluate empirical claims about the social world.
- 2) ***Inquiry and analysis***, which is related to critical thinking. The material covered in the course will help you understand quantitative research reported in scholarly books and articles and in the media, and will put you in a better position to do your own research.
- 3) ***Problem solving***. You will have the opportunity to learn how to calculate and interpret basic statistics, and how to choose the appropriate statistical procedures for the issue at hand. You will also learn how to use SPSS software to calculate and interpret statistics and thus how to use it to solve statistical problems.
- 4) ***Communication***, in particular how to communicate and comprehend ideas in quantitative and statistical terms.
- 5) ***Self awareness and development***, and ***social awareness and engagement***. These competencies are enhanced by increasing your knowledge about the empirical world and by acquiring some basic skills in quantitative analysis. To develop oneself and to become more socially aware and engaged, it helps to have some familiarity with statistics so you can better understand certain aspects of yourself and society at large.
- 6) ***Valuing***, which involves the application of moral principles and ethical codes. Moral and ethical dilemmas cannot be resolved through statistical analysis, but quantitative knowledge can be very useful when assessing different moral positions and their implications.

## Course Requirements\*

- 1) Two computer assignments, each worth 5% of the final grade. A separate handout outlining what is required, deadlines, etc. will be provided.
- 2) In-class test, worth 20% of the final grade, to be written on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

3) In-class test, worth 30% of the final grade, to be written on Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

4) Final exam, worth 40% of the final grade, to be written in the April exam period (scheduled by the Registrar).

\*Notes:

- a) Normally, absences from examinations will be excused only on the basis of serious illness documented by a note from a physician. **In such cases, students are to contact the instructor *before the exam is held***, if possible. Students will receive a score of zero for any unexcused absence from an examination. *The policies governing requests for academic accommodation applicable to this course are outlined in the Academic Policies and Regulations section included at the end of this course outline.*
- b) It is possible to get a final grade ending in "9," e.g., 69%. Grades ending in "9" will not be "bumped up," e.g., a final grade of 69% will not be changed to 70%.

Classroom Etiquette

PLEASE:

Do not use computers in class *for any reason*, except to take notes.

Turn **off** cell phones and other electronic devices (putting them on vibrate is not allowed), and **store them out of sight**.

Do not send or read emails or text messages while class is in session.

Refrain from speaking to a neighbour during class time, especially if someone (either the instructor or a fellow class member) is speaking to the class.

## Topics To Be Covered

Note: You are responsible for material designated as “optional” in the textbook unless you are told otherwise by the instructor.

### Readings

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| 1) Introduction to statistics  | Healey and Prus,<br>Prologue, pp.1-7; ch.1 |
| 2) Descriptive statistics  |  |
| a) Percentages, Ratios and Rates; Basic Tables, Charts<br>and Graphs             | Healey and Prus, ch.2,                     |
| b) Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion                                   | Healey and Prus, ch.3                      |
| c) The Normal Curve and Z-scores   | Healey and Prus, ch.4                      |
| 3) Inferential Statistics  |  |
| a) Sampling and Sampling Distributions   | Healey and Prus, ch.5                      |
| b) Estimation Procedures   | Healey and Prus, ch.6                      |
| c) Hypothesis Testing: One-sample case   | Healey and Prus, ch.7                      |
| d) Hypothesis Testing: Two-sample case   | Healey and Prus, ch.8                      |
| e) Hypothesis Testing: Analysis of Variance                                      | Healey and Prus, ch.9                      |
| 4) Bivariate Measures of Association   |  |
| a) Measures of Association for Interval-Ratio Data; Regression<br>and Prediction | Healey and Prus,<br>ch.13                  |

### Course Antirequisites and Prerequisites

Antirequisites: Biology 2244A/B, Economics 2122A/B, 2222A/B, Geography 2210A/B, Health Sciences 3801A/B, MOS 2242A/B, Psychology 2810, 2820E, 2830A/B, 2850A/B, 2851A/B, the former 2885, Social Work 2207A/B, the former 2205, Statistical Sciences 2035, 2141A/B, 2143A/B, 2244A/B, 2858A/B and the former 2122A/B (and Statistical Sciences 2037A/B if taken before Fall 2010).

Prerequisites: At least 60% average in 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

**2016-17 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 for illness 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. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming 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 from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> 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.

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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

**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](http://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 (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html> )

### **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**

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.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html> )

## **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 prerequisite(s).

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://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. 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://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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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.