

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
SO 300 - Elementary Social Statistics
Fall 2018
Department of Social Sciences
M/W: 4:00p.m – 5:15p.m. SSB 12:

Instructor: Dr. Chandrouti Persaud.

Office: Social Sciences E. **Phone:** 662- 254 -3352/ 3810. Email: persaudmvsu@yahoo.com

Office Hrs: M/W: 12:30 p.m – 4:00 p.m. T: 10:00 am – 2:00 p.m.

Please make appointment/s for other office visit during times not listed above

Required Text:

1. Healey, Joseph F. *The Essentials of Social Statistics: (2nd or 3rd Ed.)* Wadsworth

Additional Reading will be assigned during semester:

Each Student must have an email account. Please use a professional email address with your name clearly displayed.

Course Description:

This course provides students with a unique opportunity to learn statistics and refine their writing skills. This is a practice course. SO 300 introduces Sociology and Government & Politics majors to basic concepts/rudiments of social statistics -- descriptive and inferential statistics -- and the application and interpretation of statistical analysis in the social sciences. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with select statistical techniques that allow them to examine interesting social questions. We will examine current news events, election polls and other relevant materials in order to apply social statistical knowledge.

You will be required to state your analysis of the results in sentences and paragraphs. Emphasis is placed on understanding and interpreting the meaning of statistics used to describe and generalize about the characteristics of groups. At end of the course, we will use (SPSS) to perform statistical analyses.

Course Requirements:

The textbook is required. Attendance is required.

Typed homework assignments (HWA): due at 4:00 p.m on Wednesday. No Late submissions will be accepted. HWA must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins. Do not use excessive wording for Stats HW. Please use tables where necessary. Poor grammar, sentence construction, organization and/or spelling errors make it difficult for your instructor to understand your intended message and could also affect your grade.

A hand calculator with a square root function is required to complete assignments, take in-class exams and prepare materials in this course. Please bring the calculator to each class session.

If you are experiencing difficulty with the material, please bring this to my attention quickly, before the end of the semester, or before you fail a test. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification about assignments and requirements. It is your responsibility to hold yourself accountable for your own performance. Poor study habits + failure to complete assignments = poor performance.

Students must have a copy of this syllabus in their possession during each class meeting and will be required to produce it at any time, without notice.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic statistical techniques used in the Social Sciences
2. Demonstrate skills necessary for the practice and analysis of basic statistical information
3. Write comprehensive statements describing statistical results
4. Demonstrate in writing and analysis, the link between theory and research

Class Format and Activities

This class will involve step by step instruction in social statistics with small group exercises in class. Study groups are helpful in a stats course. You are expected to complete assigned exercises prior to class and come prepared to work collaboratively. You will need the textbook for classroom exercises and homework. Reading a text book in class, during a teaching module, interrupts the teaching/learning process and you may be seriously confused by the end of class. You need to read the text **prior** to class in order to follow the in – class session and to do the homework which comes from the Healey Textbook. Reading the text in class will not help you.

Study Groups: Students who attend study groups outside of class not only learn more in class, but also enjoy the class more than those who do not collaborate outside of class. Please form study groups of three or four early in the semester and be prepared to meet outside of class to review practice exercises and work together on problems/ assignments. Form your group early and work on homework together. Please do not submit photocopies of homework. You must write your own results and paragraph analyses of data. Plagiarism will result in an “F” grade for SO 300.

Performance Evaluation

This class has weekly homework. After each class meeting, you will be assigned practice problems from the text to apply the week’s stats module/s. Several mini exercises and some major homework assignments will be due this semester. These assignments will include a combination of problem solving (hand and computer calculations) and conceptual interpretation of the results. Together these assignments are worth 60% of your course grade.

Two exams will be given during the semester as scheduled on the course outline below. The mid-term will be a two-day exam and is worth 20% of your grade (100 points).

The final exam is worth 10% (50 points) of the final grade. These exams are non-cumulative; however, in order to do well on an exam, you need to know the earlier material because mastering statistical skills is generally a cumulative process. There will be no make up exams.

Grading Scale:

A total of 500 points are possible in this class.

5 mini exercises * 20points each	100 points
4 major assignments * 50 points	200 points
Midterm	100 points
Final	50 points
Attendance and participation	50 points
Total	500 points

A= 90- 100%. B= 89- 80%. C=79-70%. D = 69-60%. F= 59-0%

Attendance Policy:

Each student will sign a daily attendance form to signify attendance. Absence from a class does not excuse a student from meeting assigned course requirements. Absences will be counted from the first day on which classes officially begin until the day of the final exam. Late comers (after 4:15 pm) will be admitted to the classroom, but will be graded as absent

Three tardies will result in one absence. Missing six classes (9 hrs) will receive an automatic F in this class. After the roll is signed, you are late, if you leave early, you are absent. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of absences. Students who attend all classes and actively participate will receive 50 points (10% of final grade = one grade point) for attendance and participation.

Office Hours:

Office hours are posted on my door and on this syllabus. Any other office visits should be requested in advance. It is a good policy to drop by the office often to discuss your progress and to clarify any lingering questions about the material or to process any difficulties in SO 300. This is your time, use it. Please do not email me with personal problems; come to the office during the posted office hours.

Special Needs and Accommodations.

Mississippi Valley State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for students with a documented disability. If you feel you are eligible to receive accommodations for a covered disability (medical, physical, psychiatric, learning, vision, hearing, etc.) and would like to request it for this course, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) program administered by University College. It is recommended that you visit the Disabilities Office located inside the Social Sciences Building, Room 105 to register for the program at the beginning of each semester. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact Mr. Billy Benson, Jr. via phone or email at 662-254-3005 or billy.benson@mvsu.edu.

For help with papers, please use your University Writing Center often.

Academic Integrity:

Students are held to very high standards of academic integrity in all of my classes. All acts of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to; cheating on exams, plagiarism, internet papers, paraphrasing internet papers, presenting someone else's work as your own, failing to meet academic and professional requirements, will result in an automatic "F." The University's academic honesty and plagiarism policies are enforced in this course.

Grade Appeals:

Any student who believes s/he has been graded unfairly, even after talking with me, may appeal that grade by following the procedures set out by the University in the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to prove that you deserve a higher grade. Please keep all copies of your work.

Diversity Policy

All students, regardless of religious affiliation, race, color, nationality, creed or sexual orientation must feel safe within this space. Please conduct all discussions with regard to individual right to human dignity and respect for all individuals.

Before Entering Class, your cell phones and pagers must be turned off /silent. No phone equipment should be visible on your person. Turned off does not mean "vibrate." If you leave this class to answer your cell phone, you will be graded as absent for the entire class.

Any student engaging in non-productive or threatening behavior or behavior considered by the instructor to be disruptive to the learning environment will be removed from the classroom.

Tentative Course Outline

The dates below are tentative and could change depending on how this class proceeds. Some topics may take more time than indicated below and some may take less time. Be advised that the daily syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be announced orally to those present in class. Students who are absent are responsible for obtaining assignments, announcements, notes etc., from your peers. This schedule is a tentative outline of the material that we will be covering each day in class. Make sure that when you come to class you have completed the assigned reading and all assignments. Be ready to participate in classroom discussions and activities.

Wk 1. Aug 20: Course overview, introduction to Social Statistics

Read: Prologue and Chapter 1: Introduction.

H.W- Find NYT article with statistics

Wk 2. Aug. 27 Math Review/ Article Stats Review

Read: Chapter 2: Basic Descriptive Statistics

Wk 3. Sept. 03: Basic Descriptive Statistics: p , f , ratio, rate, charts and graphs

Read: Chapter 3: Measures of Central Tendency.

Wk 4. Sept. 10: Basic Descriptive Statistics: p , f , ratio, rate, charts and graphs

Read: Chapter 3: Measures of Central Tendency.

Wk 5. Sept.17: Central Tendency

Read: Chapter 4. Measures of Dispersion

Wk 6. Sept 24: Measures of Variability/Dispersion Cumulative Review of all stats

Review for Exam 1: chs. 1- 4. Bring review questions

Review for Exam 1: Study your assignments and review chapters 1, 2, 3, 4

Wk 7. Oct. 01: **Mid. Term Exam**

Wk 8. Oct. 08: Review of Exam

Wk 9: Oct. 15: Measures of variability

Read Ch. 5: The Normal Curve

Wk 10. Oct. 22: The Normal Curve

Read Ch. 5: The Normal Curve

Wk 11: Oct 29: The Normal Curve

Read Ch. 6. Intro to Inferential Stats

Wk 12. Nov. 5: Sampling Distribution and Estimation
Read Ch. 6. Intro to Inferential Stats

Wk 13. Nov. 12: Confidence Intervals
Review Chs. 5, 6, 7

Wk 14. Nov. 19: Fall Break/ Thanksgiving
Review all chapters for finals

Wk 15. Nov. 26: Review for Finals
Review all chapters for finals

Wk 16. Dec. 03: Final Exam

NOTE: This document does not constitute a contract with the University. It contains guidelines. The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary