

SOCIOLOGY 312
QUANTITATIVE METHODS IN SOCIOLOGY

CRN: 15324
Fall 2009
TR 12:00-1:20
125 McKenzie

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Welcome to Quantitative Methods in Sociology. Much of the research that sociologists do involves analysis of numerical data, so an understanding of quantitative methods is an important part of an education in sociology. In this course we concentrate on the logic and techniques of data analysis and set the groundwork for more advanced quantitative courses that are offered by the department (e.g., Soc 412/512 and Soc 413/513). This course covers the construction and interpretation of tables and graphs, descriptive statistics, measures of association, basic ideas of probability, and elementary statistical inference. My goals for this course are that you will learn how to use and interpret basic statistics and understand the logic behind these methods of analysis.

The required text for this course is *Elementary Statistics in Social Research: The Essentials (2nd Edition)* by Jack Levin and James Alan Fox. The book is available at the University Bookstore.

Calculator: You will also need a (fairly basic) scientific calculator, which can be acquired from the University Bookstore or elsewhere for a fairly low price (~\$15).

Grading Criteria

There will be a total of 200 points available in this class, divided up as follows:

- There will be **two midterm exams** each of which is worth 60 points. The exams are open notes and open book, so be sure to bring these, along with a calculator, with you to class on exam days.
- There will be a take-home **final exam** worth 60 points.
- There will be regular **homework** assignments, which all together will be worth 20 points. Homework assignments are drawn from the exercises at the end of each chapter. I will give you a list of the problems assigned for each chapter and will inform you of the due date for each assignment in class. Each homework assignment will be checked for completion. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU DO THE HOMEWORK.** It is perhaps the best way to learn much of the material in this course. It is an opportunity for active learning.

I do not grade on a curve – the grades are based on the total number of points you earn. Note, however, that in the unlikely event that the overall average grade for the class is particularly low, I may give everyone a set number of points in order to improve the average. Any potential changes to the grading system will only serve to improve your grade and will be given fairly to everyone. There are no

opportunities for extra credit, so it is important that you do well on the exams and complete all of the homework. Final grades are based on the following point system:

A+ 195-200 points (97.5 – 100%)	C+ 155-159 points (77.5 – 79.5%)
A 186-194 points (93 – 97%)	C 146-154 points (73 – 77%)
A- 180-185 points (90 – 92.5%)	C- 140-145 points (70 – 72.5%)
B+ 175-179 points (87.5 – 89.5%)	D+ 135-139 points (67.5 – 69.5%)
B 166-174 points (83 – 87%)	D 126-134 points (63 – 67%)
B- 160-165 points (80 – 82.5%)	D- 120-125 points (60-62.5%)
F - below 120 points (60%) is a failing grade	

To be successful in this course, you will need to attend class regularly and keep up on the reading and homework assignments. You should bring your book, notes, and calculator to class everyday. I encourage you to form study groups with other students in the class and work on homework assignments together. If you are having problems, you should come to see me or one of the teaching assistants during our office hours.

Academic Integrity: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. Although I encourage you to study together and work on homework assignments together, you are expected to work alone for the exams. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the Schedule of Classes published quarterly. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with me before you complete any requirement of the course.

Disability Accommodations: Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. ***Please notify me during the first week of class*** of any accommodations needed for this course.

Schedule

(Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this schedule if needed. If there are any changes, I will notify you in class in advance. I am not responsible for those absent from class.)

Week 1 (9/29 and 10/1)

Chapters 1 & 2: Uses of Statistical Research and Organizing the Data (pages 1 – 52)

Week 2 (10/6 and 10/8)

Chapter 3: Measures of Central Tendency (pages 53 – 66)

Chapter 4: Measures of Variability (pages 67 – 83)

Week 3 (10/13 and 10/15)

Chapter 5: Probability and the Normal Curve (87-111)

Week 4 (10/20 and 10/22)

Tuesday (10/20): **MIDTERM EXAM 1**

Chapter 6: Samples and Populations (112-141)

Week 5 (10/27 and 10/29)

Chapter 7: Testing Differences Between Means (pages 145 – 181)

Week 6 (11/3 and 11/5)

Chapter 8: Analysis of Variance (pages 183-206)

Week 7 (11/10 and 11/12)

Tuesday (11/12): **MIDTERM EXAM 2**

Chapter 9: Nonparametric Tests of Significance (pages 207-235)

Week 8 (11/17 and 11/19)

Chapter 10: Correlation (pages 239 – 257)

Week 9 (11/24)

Chapter 11: Regression Analysis (pages 258 –275)

Thursday: **Thanksgiving (no class)**

Week 10 (12/1 and 12/3)

Chapter 12: Nonparametric Measures of Correlation (275-301)

Thursday: Hand out **FINAL EXAM** (due by 4pm on 12/9)

Finals week (no meeting)

We do **NOT** meet during finals week. Your final exam is take-home and is due by 4pm on Wednesday (12/9) in the sociology office (736 PLC). Place in Richard York's mailbox.