

**Social Statistics**  
**Sociology 396, CRN# 43303, “Attend Anywhere” at TTH 10:00-11:50**  
**In-Person (KMC 495) & Via Zoom (<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/89338225576>)**  
**Winter 2022 Syllabus**

**INSTRUCTOR**

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**TEACHING ASSISTANT**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to promote understanding and knowledge of statistical methods used in the social sciences. Students will be introduced to a wide range of statistical techniques for analyzing social science data. Students will learn how, when and why statistics are used and why it is necessary to understand them. The topics to be studied are conceptualization, operationalization, and measurement of socially based phenomena. Students will learn how to summarize data with graphs and numbers, make generalizations about populations based on samples of the population, and describe the relationships between variables. We will discuss some theory, although the majority of the class is dedicated to the application and interpretation of statistics.

This course is a prerequisite for SOC 397/398 for SOC majors. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared to move on to SOC 397/398 as well as more advanced statistics courses.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To calculate basic statistics
2. To understand fundamental concepts such as central tendency and dispersion, frequency and probability, and inferential statistics
3. To develop basic skills in statistical reasoning
4. To promote the knowledge and usage of statistical software packages such as SPSS
5. To develop skills necessary to move on to more advanced social research methods
6. To create intelligent consumers of statistical findings presented in media and scholarly journals

**TEXTBOOK (NOT REQUIRED)**

*Social Statistics: Managing Data, Conducting Analyses, Presenting Results* by Thomas J. Linneman (A copy of the book is on reserve at PSU library)

## **COURSE WEBSITE**

Check Canvas (<http://canvas.pdx.edu>) and your email (i.e., @pdx.edu, or an email address in the PSU system) daily basis for important announcements, feedback on your work, and additional readings.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS**

This is an “Attend Anywhere” course – we meet in-person (in KMC 495), while you can attend the class via Zoom if attending class in-person is not feasible.

If you attend it in-person, we must follow the rules established by the University to keep us safe as much as possible. Please see the last two pages of the syllabus for the details.

For those who attend the class through Zoom, you must have reliable internet access which will allow you to navigate/search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files.

All assignments must be turned in to Canvas by when they are due. See the below for the course requirements.

## **FINAL GRADES ARE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS**

1. Two assignments (2 * 10)	20%
2. Three out of four tests (3 * 15)	45%
3. Final (online, cumulative)	35%
4. Class activity/participation (5 * 1 extra percentage point)	5%
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Total	105%

### **Grading Scale**

A	94 – 100%	B+	86 – 89%	C+	76 – 79%	D+	66 – 69%	F	≤ 59%
A-	90 – 93%	B	82 – 85%	C	72 – 75%	D	62 – 65%		
		B-	80 – 81%	C-	70 – 71%	D-	60 – 61%		

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### **COVID-19:**

I want to acknowledge that we continue to operate in unusual circumstances this term. The current COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all of us in various ways, either big or small. PSU is working to keep the community informed, and I would like you to know that you are not alone as we all try to get through this difficult time. This course is offered as Attend Anywhere, to make students' learning experience more positive during the pandemic, I anticipate we may have to make additional changes as the term progresses, and we learn what is working and what is not working for our course community. Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

**Class Etiquette:**

In all of your course related activities and communications, you are required to observe the rules of etiquette. They include the following.

- Be respectful when making a comment or responding to others' comments.
- Be polite, careful, and kind about how you express yourself while speaking in class, posting to a discussion board, and emailing me or your colleagues.
- Be succinct, especially when you post on the course website by avoiding a lengthy post, and dozens of messages a week.
- Be precise by avoiding the twitter and text message abbreviations.
- Finally, if you run into any etiquette-related problems—if something has offended or hurt your feelings, for instance—please e-mail me directly about it. I would like to be aware of any problems.

**Additional Rules for the Class:**

- Write your email message to me and our TA with an appropriate subject, a proper greeting, a body text, and a signature (your name).
- Avoid using all CAPS as it can give the impression that you are shouting. If you want to emphasize a point, use \*asterisks\* around a word or underline a word.
- Avoid personal attacks, otherwise known as "flaming." If you read a message that you suspect might be a personal attack, resist the temptation to fire off a response. Instead, let your response sit before sending or request that your instructor resolve the situation.
- If you disagree with a fellow student, describe your perspective clearly and politely rather than primarily criticizing her/his comments. Avoid any personal criticism or potentially offensive language.

**Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

Students who violate PSU rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of PSU, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For more information on university policies check the web page (<http://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct#AcademicDishonesty>).

**Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities:**

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. Our goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, [drc@pdx.edu](mailto:drc@pdx.edu), <https://www.pdx.edu/drc>.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the [Fire and Life Safety webpage](https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety) (<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/fire-and-life-safety>) for information.

**Title IX Reporting Obligations:**

Portland State is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and sexual harassment (sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and gender or sex-based harassment and stalking). If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or sexual harassment, know that help and support are available. PSU has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and on-housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. Information about PSU's support services on campus, including confidential services and reporting options, can be found on PSU's Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response website at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help> or you may call a confidential IPV Advocate at 503-725-5672. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the [Office of Equity and Compliance](#) or the [Office of the Dean of Student Life](#).

Please be aware that all PSU faculty members and instructors **are required to report** information of an incident that may constitute prohibited discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence. This means that if you tell me about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence that may have violated university policy or student code of conduct, I have to share the information with my supervisor, the University's Title IX Coordinator or the Office of the Dean of Student Life. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module [Creating a Safe Campus](#) in your D2L.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)				
Part I: The Structure of Inquiry				
Week 1	T	1/4	Introduction and Overview of Course	
	Th	1/6	Why Statistics (Ch.1)	
	Sun	1/9		"Tell Me about Yourself"
Week 2	T	1/11	Conceptualization and Operationalization (Ch.1)	
	Th	1/13	Conceptualization and Operationalization, cont'd (Ch.1)	
	Sun	1/16		Test #1
Part II: Descriptive Statistics and Analysis				
Week 3	T	1/18	SPSS Exercise	
	Th	1/20	Descriptive Statistics (Ch.3)	"How to Access SPSS"
Week 4	T	1/25	Descriptive Statistics, cont'd (Ch.3)	
	Th	1/27	SPSS Demonstration	
	Sun	1/30		Test #2
Week 5	T	2/1	The Normal Distribution and Probability (Ch.5)	
	TH	2/3	The Normal Distribution and Probability, cont'd (Ch.5)	"Calculating Probability"
Week 5	T	2/1	Chi-Square (Ch.4)	
	Th	2/3	Chi-Square, cont'd (Ch.4)	
	Sun	2/6		Test #3
Week 6	T	2/8	SPSS Demonstration	
	Th	2/10	SPSS Exercise	
	Sun	2/13		Assignment #1
Part III: Inferential Statistics				
Week 7	T	2/15	Hypothesis Testing (Ch.6)	
	Th	2/17	Hypothesis Testing, cont'd (Ch.6)	"Performing t-test"
Week 8	T	2/22	Measures of Association (Ch.7)	
	Th	2/24	Measures of Association, cont'd (Ch.7)	
	Sun	2/27		Test #4
Week 9	T	3/1	Inference and Regression (Ch.8)	
	Th	3/3	Inference and Regression, cont'd (Ch.8)	
	Sun	3/6		Assignment #2
Week 10	T	3/8	Inference and Regression (Ch.8)	
	Th	3/10	Inference and Regression, cont'd (Ch.8)	"Performing Regression"
Week 11	M-F	3/14-18	Final Exam (online, cumulative)	

## Classroom Requirements for All Students and Faculty Due to Covid-19

The University has established rules and policies to make the return to the classroom as safe as possible. It is required for everyone to follow all the Return to Campus rules and policies. To participate in this class, PSU requires students to comply with the following.

### Masks Required at all Times in Classroom

- [Wear a mask or face covering indoors](#) at all times. Your mask or face covering must be properly worn (fully covering nose and mouth and tight fitting). Mesh masks, face shields, or face covering that incorporates a valve designed to facilitate easy exhalation are not acceptable. **Because a mask must be worn in the classroom, there should be no eating or drinking in the classroom.** If you have a medical condition or a disability that prevents you from wearing a mask or cloth face covering, you must obtain an accommodation from the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) to be exempt from this requirement.
- CDC, State, and County guidance does not limit class size for in-person instruction or require physical distancing.

### Vaccination

- Be vaccinated against COVID-19 and submit a [COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement Form](#).
- Those students who previously requested a deferral, please contact the [Center for Student Health & Counseling \(SHAC\)](#) for help updating your attestation form.

### Health Check, Illness, Exposure or Positive Test for COVID-19

- Complete the [required self-check for COVID-19 symptoms before coming to campus each day](#).
- If you are feeling sick or have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to campus. Call SHAC to discuss your symptoms and situation (503.725.2800). They will advise you on testing, quarantine, and when you can return to campus.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, [report your result to SHAC](#) and do not come to campus. SHAC will advise you on quarantine, notification of close contacts and when you can return to campus.
- Please notify me, (i.e. your instructor), should you need to miss a class period for any of these reasons so that we can discuss strategies to support your learning during this time.
- If I become ill or need to quarantine during the term, either I or the department chair will notify you via PSU email about my absence and how course instruction will continue.

### Failure to Comply with Any of these Rules

As the instructor of this course, the University has given me the authority to require your compliance with these policies. If you do not comply with these requirements, I may ask you to leave the classroom or I may need to cancel the class session entirely.

In addition, failure to comply with these requirements may result in a referral to the Office of the Dean of Student Life to consider charges under PSU's Code of Conduct. A student found to have violated a university rule (or rules) through the due process of student conduct might face disciplinary and educational sanctions (or consequences). For a complete list of sanctions, see Section 14 of the [Student Code of Conduct & Responsibility](#)

**Guidance May Change**

Please note that the University rules, policies, and guidance may change at any time at the direction of the CDC, State, or County requirements. Please review the University's main [COVID-19 Response](#) webpage and look for emails from the University on these topics.