

Social Statistics
Sociology 396, CRN# 44928, “Attend Anywhere” at TTH 10:00-11:50
In-Person (Cramer 371)/Via Zoom (<https://pdx.zoom.us/j/84515336894>)
Winter 2023 Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR

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(Zoom Meeting ID: 364 484 3601)

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. Additionally, 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, measurement of socially based phenomena, and inferential statistics. Through these topics, students will learn how to summarize data with graphs and numbers, generalize about populations based on samples of the population, and describe the relationships between variables to offer sociological explanations about social issues/problems. 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. If helps, download an app for Canvas Student to keep you informed.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS

This is an “**Attend Anywhere**” course – we meet in-person (in CH 371), while you can attend the class via Zoom only 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 page of the syllabus for the guideline details.

For those who attend the class through Zoom, you must have reliable internet access, which will allow you to have uninterrupted class experience when using Canvas, attach/upload/download documents, and use SPSS program on Virtual Lab (i.e., vlab.pdx.edu).

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 exam (online, cumulative)	35%
4. Five class activities (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.

I would also like to remind you that PSU offers resources for students' health and wellness. Please learn about and use the many campus resources available to you. For example:

- To speak with a counselor, call the Center for Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) at (503) 725-2800 during SHAC business hours (M-Th 9am-5am & Fri 10am-5pm). For more up-to-date information, check out [SHAC's website](#).
- Students may also access free 24/7 confidential mental health and wellbeing support through the [My Student Support Program](#) and/or My SSP app from Apple Store or Google Play.

More PSU Resources on Canvas:

Resources for academic services, finances, and basic needs, please see our Canvas course website on Canvas (under PSU Resources module).

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 excessive numbers 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, <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 [Environmental Health & Safety](https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/) webpage (<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-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 go to the <https://www.pdx.edu/diversity/title-ix>.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)

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Part I: The Structure of Inquiry				
Week 1	T	1/10	Introduction and Overview of Course	
	Th	1/12	Why Statistics (Ch.1)	
	Sun	1/15		CA #1: "Tell Me about Yourself"
Week 2	T	1/17	Conceptualization and Operationalization (Ch.1)	
	Th	1/19	Conceptualization and Operationalization (Ch.1, cont'd)	
	Sun	1/22		Test #1
Part II: Descriptive Statistics and Analysis				
Week 3	T	1/24	Descriptive Statistics (Ch.3)	
	Th	1/26	SPSS Exercise	CA #2: "SPSS Exercise"
Week 4	T	1/31	Descriptive Statistics, cont'd (Ch.3)	
	Th	2/2	SPSS Demonstration	
	Sun	2/5		Test #2
Week 5	T	2/7	The Normal Distribution and Probability (Ch.5)	
	TH	2/9	The Normal Distribution and Probability, cont'd (Ch.5)	CA #3: "Calculating Probability"
	Sun	2/12		Assignment #1
Part III: Inferential Statistics (Measures of Association)				
Week 6	T	2/14	Hypothesis Testing (Ch.6)	
	Th	2/16	Hypothesis Testing, cont'd (Ch.6)	
	Sun	2/19		Test #3
Week 7	T	2/21	Chi-Square (Ch.4)	
	Th	2/23	Chi-Square, cont'd (Ch.4)	CA #4: "Performing Chi-Square"
	Sun			
Week 8	T	2/28	T-Test (Ch.7)	
	Th	3/2	T-Test, cont'd (Ch.7)	CA #5: "Performing T-Test"
	Sun	3/5		Test #4
Week 9	T	3/7	Inference and Regression (Ch.8)	
	Th	3/9	Inference and Regression, cont'd (Ch.8)	
	Sun	3/12		Assignment #2
Week 10	T	3/14	Inference and Regression, cont'd (Ch.8)	
	Th	3/16	Review for Final	
Week 11	Sat-Fri	3/18-3/24	Final Exam (online, cumulative)	

Notes: CA = Class Activity; and all the tests including the final exam are online.

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES DUE TO COVID-19

The risk of COVID-19 infection is relatively low at the moment. However, it is important to recognize that COVID-19 will continue to circulate in our lives during Winter 2023. The University has shown its [commitment](#) to creating a healthy campus environment that includes enhanced cleaning practices and strict air quality standards. We have also made resources - including masks, vaccination, and testing - easily accessible for students. Anyone with COVID symptoms should follow [current CDC guidelines](#) for isolation.

Masks and Hand Sanitizing Recommended in Classroom

- Mask wearing is no longer required, but I would recommend to wear one in the classroom, and to minimize drinking and eating in the classroom.
- Sanitize hands as often as possible. CDC, State, and County guidance does not limit class size for in-person instruction or require physical distancing, and we would like to keep our classroom germ-free as much as possible.

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

- 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.

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.