**QUESTIONS**

**Instructor.** Dara Shifrer, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Office hours: Cramer Hall 217K – Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30p-3:30p, by appointment

**Asking questions outside of class:**

- **Step 1:** Check to see if your question has been answered in the syllabus or in the D2L discussion thread “Student Questions” (in DSL, click on Activities>Discussions).
- **Step 2:** Post your question in the D2L discussion thread “Student Questions.” Your question can be answered by classmates or the Instructor. Class communication will become more efficient as classmates with the same question benefit from your post.
- **Step 3:** If your question is personal or you do not receive an answer after 24 hours on the D2L discussion thread, email me at dshifrer@pdx.edu. If you email me through D2L, I cannot guarantee a response within 24 hours.

**LEARNING GOALS**

This four-credit course introduces graduate level statistics and quantitative data methodology, with an emphasis on the applied statistical analysis of data focused on social issues. This course progresses from univariate and bivariate analyses through linear and logistic regression. Students will also build research and writing skills as they connect their analyses to theory and learn to accurately and concisely report quantitative results. Additional advanced statistics courses are recommended for students planning to complete a quantitative thesis. The Department of Sociology offers SOC 695 (Advanced Methods in Sociology) in the spring term. The School of Community Health offers a 2-part course: USP 534 in the spring term and USP 554 in the fall term. Recommended prerequisites: graduate status and introductory level statistics course(s).

- Philosophy and processes of data science (or quantitative methodology)
- Specific SPSS syntax for managing, preparing, and analyzing data
- Link statistical theory to applied statistical analyses
- Write and present a preliminary quantitative research paper
- Learn to interpret and evaluate other researchers’ quantitative research

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**


**Internet.** Some assignments for this course will require the use of a reliable internet connection. Your connection should enable you to search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files. Internet issues will not be a valid excuse.
for a late assignment – find an alternative source for internet now (such as a coffee shop) and do not attempt to complete assignments at the last minute.

**SPSS.** This statistical software will be available on the computers in the lab where class is held. You will also receive instructions on obtaining this software for your own computer through PSU if you choose. Although class instruction will focus on SPSS, you are welcome to complete the assignments in both SPSS and a statistical software of your choosing (e.g., Stata, SAS, R). Learning two softwares may be helpful for students who would like to be trained in the same software their thesis advisor uses or who are interested in PhD programs that emphasize a software other than SPSS.

**D2L.** Many course resources will be available on D2L (https://d2l.pdx.edu/). If you have trouble accessing your D2L account, contact the OIT help desk (SMSU 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or help@pdx.edu.

**Dataset.** One of your first tasks will be to find a dataset that is available in SPSS format and of theoretical interest to you. Those who don't find their own dataset will use the General Social Survey.

**GUIDELINES**

**Classroom Activities.** Class time is structured at maximizing your learning by incorporating direct instruction (including the presentation of the same topic in multiple ways), peer interaction, and learning-by-doing. Class time will be spent reviewing the previous week’s homework, learning new material, and then working on homework or the Research Paper as I circulate to provide assistance. You may not leave early. You are expected to contribute to this classroom environment by being prepared, being an active participant, and being courteous to your classmates. Being prepared includes bringing your textbook to class. Bathroom breaks should be limited to the latter homework part of class. Conversations with other classmates should be homework-related and quiet out of respect for your classmates. Laptops and cellphones are not allowed in class. You may only have class-related softwares open (e.g., SPSS, Word, Powerpoint). PSU does not allow food or drinks in the laboratories, excepting a closed container of water that must be kept near the door. If your behaviors are negatively impacting the classroom experience and you do not improve after a warning, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Persistent issues will result in a report to the Office of the Dean of Student Life.

**Late Assignments.** Points received will be reduced by 20% for each day late. For work due in class, work submitted after class up until the following day at 2pm will be considered one day late—and so on. For work due at 5pm on a Friday, work submitted between 5:01pm on that Friday through 5:00pm on Saturday will be considered one day late—and so on.
**Academic Honesty.** The PSU Student Conduct Code prohibits all forms of academic cheating, fraud, and dishonesty, including but not limited to plagiarism, buying and selling of assignments for others, unauthorized disclosure and receipt of academic information, and other practices understood to academically dishonor. Plagiarism describes the use of another person’s words or ideas without giving that person credit. Information on avoiding plagiarism available at [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/). Any assignment or exam found to be academically dishonest will receive no credit and you will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Student Life. You will fail the course if any additional incidents of academic dishonesty occur.

**Accommodations.** Any student with a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability is encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange academic accommodations to support your success in the course (503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu).

**Harassment and Discrimination.** As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment, sexual violence or discrimination to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of those individuals at [http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help](http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/get-help). For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module Creating a Safe Campus at [http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module](http://www.pdx.edu/sexual-assault/safe-campus-module).

**ASSIGNMENTS**

1000 total points available for the term:

- Final draft of Research Paper 500
- 6 Homework Assignments at 45 points each 270
- 1 Presentation 100
- 8 Class Participations at 10 points each 80
- Certificate of Completion of Human Subjects Training 50

**Research Paper (DUE MONDAY, MARCH 20 BY 5PM).** The Research Paper will prepare you to communicate complicated quantitative findings in a meaningful way, particularly facilitating your successful completion of a thesis (whether ultimately quantitatively or qualitatively focused). The Research Paper will also increase your capacity to submit articles to academic journals, and generally improve your general writing and critical thinking skills. This Paper will be 15-30 pages in length and based on the quantitative analyses you conduct over the course of this term. Chapter 9 in the textbook discusses the main parts of the paper. The class is designed to ensure your
success on this assignment. In addition to staggered deadlines designed to keep you on track, your success will be facilitated by my assistance during class, my feedback on your homework, feedback on a first draft of the paper from a classmate, and feedback from me and classmates after your Presentation.

**Homework Assignments.** The weekly homework assignments will reinforce what you learn in class and help you complete your Research Paper in manageable steps. The homework focused on Sweet and Grace-Martin will be available on D2L (abbreviated versions of the homework in the book). Required formatting for homework documents is provided below. Assignment titles are provided at the end of the syllabus – also clearly title the different sections of homework included in single Word documents. Send completed assignments to dshifrer@pdx.edu by Fridays at 5pm.

- All homework should be submitted as a series of Word documents
- Files should be named according to assignment titles provided at end of syllabus
- Times New Roman size 12 font
- One inch margins on all four sides
- Name, date, and assignment title in upper left corner of header (assignment titles are provided at end of syllabus
- Page number in center of footer
- Single spaced
- First line of paragraphs indented half an inch

**Presentation (MONDAY, MARCH 13).** The Presentation will help you consider the organization of your Research Paper from another perspective and will build skills useful at academic conferences and other workplaces. You will also receive feedback from me and your classmates to improve the final draft of your Research Paper. To accommodate all research presentations, we may need to meet twice during Week 10. We will schedule this second class date through a Doodle poll I send out by email during Week 4.

**Class Participation.** You will receive 10 points for each class you attend. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late or leave more than 10 minutes before the end of class, you will receive no points for attending class that day.

**Human Subjects Training.** You will complete the NIH Human Subjects Research training online: http://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php. You must register before logging in to complete the training. In order to get credit, you will need to save the certificate of completion and email it to dshifrer@pdx.edu. Save a copy for your files to submit with your IRB application. If you have previously completed the NIH or CITI training, you can just submit the certificate of completion from that training to receive credit.

**Resources to Support Your Success**
The OWL at Purdue University (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/)
The Emory Writing Center (http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu/)
**SOC 593: QUANTITATIVE METHODS**  
**Winter 2017 Syllabus**  
Portland State University – Mondays 2p-4:50p

PSU Writing Center ([http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu](http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu))  
PSU Research Tools & Collections ([http://library.pdx.edu/research/](http://library.pdx.edu/research/))  
PSU Academic Advising ([http://www.pdx.edu/veterans/academic-advising](http://www.pdx.edu/veterans/academic-advising))  
PSU Center for Student Health and Counseling ([http://www.pdx.edu/shac/](http://www.pdx.edu/shac/))

---

**COURSE SCHEDULE**  
Course schedule subject to change with reasonable notice. File names for assignments are provided in italics. PROVIDE CLEAR SUBHEADINGS IN THE BODY OF THE FILE SO I QUICKLY KNOW WHAT PART OF THE ASSIGNMENT I AM READING.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due in Class on Monday</th>
<th>Due by Email on Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan 9</td>
<td>Jan 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 1-2</td>
<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 1 questions (HW1_LastName_SGM1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan 16 - NO CLASS</td>
<td>Jan 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|      | Read Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 3 | • Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 3 questions (HW2_LastName_SGM3)  
|      |                        | • Research Paper Prep (HW1_LastName_RPP)  
|      |                        | o Research questions and hypotheses  
|      |                        | o Dataset’s name and description  
|      |                        | o Each variable’s name, label, type (scale, nominal, ordinal, character), and function (dependent variable, predictor of interest, control) |
| 3    | Jan 23                 | Jan 27                |
|      | Read Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 4 | • Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 4 questions (HW3_LastName_SGM4)  
|      |                        | • Crosstab of each original variable with recoded variable – for scales, you will have a crosstab of many variables and should also estimate an alpha (document should begin with the program/syntax) (HW3_LastName_SPSS_CT)  
|      |                        | • Appropriate univariate analysis of each cleaned variable (document should begin with the program/syntax) (HW3_LastName_SPSS_UNI)  
|      |                        | • Citations (ASA style) for at least five peer-reviewed articles that relate to your dependent variable and predictor of interest (HW3_LastName_RPP) |
| 4    | Jan 30                 | Feb 3                 |
|      | Read Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 5-6 | • Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 5-6 questions (HW4_LastName_SGM5-6)  
|      |                        | • Certification of completion for CITI training |
## SOC 593: QUANTITATIVE METHODS
### Winter 2017 Syllabus
Portland State University – Mondays 2p-4:50p

### Outline for Literature Review
- Organized according to hypotheses
- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between predictor(s) of interest & dependent variable(s)
- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between control variables & predictor(s) of interest
- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between control variables & dependent variable(s)

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Read Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 7</td>
<td>(HW4_LastName_CITI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Outline for Literature Review – organized according to hypotheses (HW4_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between predictor(s) of interest &amp; dependent variable(s) (document should begin with the program/syntax) (HW4_LastName_SPSS_PoiDv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between control variables &amp; predictor(s) of interest (document should begin with the program/syntax) (HW4_LastName_SPSS_CtlPoi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Correlations, t-tests, or ANOVAS between control variables &amp; dependent variable(s) (document should begin with the program/syntax) (HW4_LastName_SPSS_CtlDv)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td></td>
<td>(HW5_LastName_SGM7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 7 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- First draft of Literature Review and Conceptual Model (HW5_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>Read Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 8</td>
<td>(HW6_LastName_SGM8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 8 questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- First draft of ‘Data and Methods’ and ‘Results’ (HW6_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Feb 20</td>
<td>Read Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 9</td>
<td>(HW7_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- First draft of Research Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar 6</td>
<td>Written and oral feedback on another student’s Research Paper</td>
<td>(HW8_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- First draft of powerpoint for presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar 13</td>
<td>Presentation to class</td>
<td>(HW8_LastName_RPP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Final draft of Research Paper due Monday, March 20 by 5pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Updated November 15, 2016