QUESTIONS

Instructor. Dara Shifrer, Assistant Professor of Sociology
Office hours: Cramer Hall 217K – Tuesdays 3p-4p, 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 is designed for first-year sociology graduate students. The main goals are to learn how to statistically analyze quantitative data and report quantitative results but you will also build skills in writing and writing research papers in particular. This course focuses on applied statistics rather than statistical theory. As this is an introductory course, you will likely need to take more advanced statistics courses if you plan on analyzing quantitative data for your thesis. The School of Community Health offers a good 2-part course: USP 534 in the spring term and USP 554 in the fall term. The Department of Sociology offers SOC 695 (Advanced Methods in Sociology) in the spring term. Recommended prerequisites: STAT 243, SOC 397, 398, graduate status.

- Use the statistical package SPSS
- Perform basic quantitative analysis steps
- Write a quantitative research paper
- Understand other researchers’ published quantitative research
- Develop a theoretical framing and literature review for your thesis (regardless of whether quantitative or qualitative)
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills

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 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 and 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). **No food or drinks** allowed in class (excepting a closed container of water). 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.** Your assignment grade 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/. 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).

ASSIGNMENTS

1000 total points available for the term:

- Final draft of Research Paper 400
- First draft of Research Paper 150
- 9 Homework Assignments at 25 points each 225
- 1 Oral Presentation 100
- 9 Class Participations at 10 points each 90
- Certificate of Completion of Human Subjects Training 35

Research Paper. In addition to improving your general writing and critical thinking skills, the Research Paper is designed to prepare you for your Master’s thesis and any additional time you spend in academia. 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 your 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 me and a classmate, and feedback after your Oral Presentation.

Homework Assignments. The weekly homework assignments are designed to build your quantitative analysis skills and to help you prepare your Research Paper in manageable steps. Download the abbreviated versions of the questions at the end of Sweet and Grace-Martin chapters from D2L. Sample formatting for documents, file names, and assignment titles listed below. Use the phrases that describe your homework in this syllabus as headings to facilitate timely grading (Ex. “Research Questions and Hypotheses”). Send completed assignments to dshifrer@pdx.edu by Fridays at 5pm.

- Times New Roman size 12 font
• One inch margins on all four sides
• Name, date, assignment name in upper right corner of header
• Page number in bottom right corner of footer
• Single spaced
• First line of paragraphs indented half an inch
• Sample file names and assignment titles for student with last name of Martin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of homework</th>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Assignment Title (in document header)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin chapter questions</td>
<td>01 HW_Martin_SGMCh1-3</td>
<td>Week 1 Homework – Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin Chapters 1 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word document with SPSS output pasted in</td>
<td>01 HW_Martin_SPSS</td>
<td>Week 1 Homework – SPSS Output</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word document with Research Paper prep</td>
<td>01 HW_Martin_RPPrep</td>
<td>Week 1 Homework – Research Paper Prep</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Oral Presentation.** The Oral 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 will 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**
Kimberly Pendell, Social Sciences Librarian, kpendell@pdx.edu, 503.725.4501
The OWL at Purdue University (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/)
The Emory Writing Center (http://www.writingcenter.emory.edu/)
PSU Writing Center (http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu)
PSU Research Tools & Collections (http://library.pdx.edu/research/)
PSU Academic Advising (http://www.pdx.edu/veterans/academic-advising)
PSU Center for Student Health and Counseling (http://www.pdx.edu/shac/)
# QUANTITATIVE METHODS
## Winter 2016 Syllabus
SOC 593-001 – Portland State University – Mondays 2p-4:50p – Cramer Hall 265

### COURSE SCHEDULE
*Course schedule subject to change with reasonable notice.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Assignments to Complete Before Class</th>
<th>Homework Assignments Due by Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | • Introduction  
• Viewing Data in SPSS  
• Levels of Measurement  
• Univariate Analysis  
   | Jan 4, Mon, 2p  
• Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 1-3  
• Uggen et al. 2006, especially Table 3 and its discussion on pp. 291-296  
   | Jan 8, Fri, 5p  
• Sweet & Grace-Martin Ch. 1 & 3 questions  |
| 2    | • Recoding Variables  
• Scales  
   | Jan 11, Mon, 2p  
• Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 4  
• Moon et al. 2011, especially the scales/indexes discussed under “The Association with Delinquent Peers and the Legitimacy of Violence” and “Strain and Negative Emotions (Anger and Depression)” (pp. 858-861)  
   | Jan 15, Fri, 5p  
• Sweet & Grace-Martin Ch. 4 questions  
• Research Paper prep:  
  ○ Research questions and hypotheses  
  ○ Name of your data set  
  ○ Names & labels of your dependent variables & predictors of interest  |
| 3    | NO CLASS  
   | Jan 22, Fri, 5p  
• SPSS output with frequency tables for all variables (including constructed scales)  
• Research Paper prep:  
  ○ Alphas for any constructed scales  
  ○ Citations (ASA style) for at least five peer-reviewed articles that relate to your topic  |
| 4    | • Crosstabs  
   | Jan 25, Mon, 2p  
• Sweet & Grace-Martin, Ch. 5, pp. 105-116 (up through the end of the “Bar Charts”)  
   | Jan 29, Fri, 5p  
• Certificate of completion for Human Subjects Training  |
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>Correlation • ANOVA</th>
<th>Feb 1, Mon, 2p</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Finish Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 5 (start at pp. 116 “Analyzing Bivariate Relationships Between Two Scale Variables”) • Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 6 • Ng and Burke 2004 (see correlation and ANOVA examples)</td>
<td>SPSS output showing how your: o Predictor(s) of interest relate to your dependent variable(s) (correlations or crosstabs) o Control variables relate to your predictor(s) of interest and dependent variable(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Simple Regression</td>
<td>Feb 8, Mon, 2p</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 7, pp. 161-170 • Kwon and Baack 2005</td>
<td>Feb 5, Fri, 5p</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin Ch. 5 questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Multiple Linear Regression</td>
<td>Feb 15, Mon, 2p</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• First draft of Research Paper • Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 7, pp. 171-182 • Bring printed copy of a peer-reviewed article that uses linear regression [i.e., ordinary least squares (OLS)] – article should be within your area of interest – read the article before coming to class</td>
<td>Feb 12, Fri, 5p</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin Ch. 6 questions</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Logistic Regression</td>
<td>Feb 22, Mon, 2p</td>
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<tr>
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<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin, Ch. 8</td>
<td>Feb 19, Fri, 5p</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin Ch. 7 questions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Research Paper prep: o First draft of Data and Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Logistic Regression</td>
<td>Feb 26, Fri, 5p</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sweet &amp; Grace-Martin Ch. 8 questions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Final Thoughts on Regression (Feb 29, Mon, 2p)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Oral Presentations (Mar 7, Mon, 2p and 2nd date TBA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Final Research Papers are due by **5pm on Monday, March 14**. Papers must be submitted to the D2L dropbox.