



**Sociology 135**  
Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Spring 2012, #85867  
TTH 9:30-10:50 AM  
Hasley Hall 302

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**Contact Information**  
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**Course Description**

Examines methods used in sociology to gather quantitative data and to compute, interpret, apply, and present statistical analyses via the use of SPSS.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this class, you will be able to

1. Demonstrate the appropriate use of statistical procedures and of SPSS to analyze sociological data.
2. Collect, analyze, interpret, and present sociological data appropriate to research objectives and or hypotheses.

**Course Objectives**

Course objectives include, but are not limited to, the following. Students will be able to

1. Formulate a testable research hypothesis.
2. Select appropriate statistical procedures to assess data.
3. Collect data via a survey.
4. Code data.
5. Evaluate reliability and validity.
6. Use SPSS and hand calculations to investigate central tendency, variability, z-scores, t-tests, ANOVAs, correlations, regressions, and non-parametric tests.

**It's not getting what you want, it's wanting what you've got!**

### **Required Materials**

- Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics 4th ed. by Neil J. Salkind packaged *with SPSS software*, Sage Publications
- Free Resource Book provided in Blackboard-Bring every day
- Standard pencils, not mechanical pencils-Bring every day
- Calculator with square root function-Bring every day
- Binder clip for homework that is too big to staple, paper clips not accepted

### **Emailing**

A lot of our communication takes place via email. I can address your issues much faster if I know who you are. It is a good idea to add your name to the "from name" field in your email account so that I don't have to repeatedly ask you. Be sure to edit your Personal Information in Blackboard so that your email address is correct and you receive class emails. Go to My Places at the top of the main screen after you log on. Click on Personal Information to update your email address and name (change it to what you want to be called). Also change your password there. If you haven't updated your email address in Blackboard and you email me from within Blackboard, I can't reply to you; my reply goes into outer space. I will respond to emails within 48 hours unless I am out of town. I will notify the class if I am going to be out of town.

Take the opportunity to practice proper grammar and netiquette (see my website) in your emails.

*I have more than one class so the subject line of the email should include*

- *the class number (5 digits)*
- *your name if it does not appear in the "from" field*

Remember that you may be working on this class in the middle of the night, but I am not. Please do not expect me to tend to your issues outside of normal work hours, I may do so at times, but please do not expect it on a regular basis.

### **Course Requirements**

8 Homework assignments (10 points each, lowest score is dropped)  
Surveys (10 points)  
Poster peer review (10 points)  
Poster presentation (100 points)  
5 Cumulative Exams (50 points each, lowest score is dropped)  
Total 450 - dropped scores = 390

## **Homework Assignments**

There will be regularly assigned homework based on the material covered in class. They are always due at the beginning of the specified class meeting. You must show me your homework as you arrive in class and I will mark it. Then you are to compare your homework to several other students' homework—I suggest you choose different students each time.

For **full** homework credit you must turn it in *and* be present for the discussion, you may earn ½ credit if you arrive late and turn it in but miss the discussion. You may work in study groups but must complete your own homework. Homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard at the end of the class they are assigned. SPSS practice files for use in completing the homework are also posted.

You may do the homework at home with your copy of SPSS or in the TLC lab on one of their computers that has SPSS. Please handwrite your homework in the space provided on the assignment; *do not* type the homework. You may not email your homework to me or leave it in my box. I strongly suggest you find a study partner or two or three, etc. You may scan your homework and email it to your study partner to print and bring to class. Do not rely on the printers in the classroom to print your homework. It is due the minute you walk through the door and no later than five minutes after the class start time.

## **Surveys**

You will administer 10 short surveys to anyone you can find who is willing to do this.

## **Poster Peer Review**

Each student will bring his/her poster to be peer reviewed. You will receive points for reviewing another student's poster. Students who do not bring a poster will not receive any points but may review someone else's poster.

## **Poster Presentation**

You will create a poster based on your analysis of the data. The poster requirements will be discussed in class.

*“What happens to food that goes down the wrong pipe?  
I can't help but wonder if my lungs are just full of crumbs.”*

## Exams

There are five cumulative exams. Questions are multiple choice, short answer, calculations, and SPSS. The lowest exam score will be dropped. Bring a standard pencil and calculator to exams 1-4.

### Guidelines for Exams

- You are responsible for all material in the textbook and articles I will lecture on material that I particularly want to emphasize and also on material that is not in this textbook but that I think is important.
- Cheating will not be tolerated and will be recognized by a grade of “F” on the exam and will be reported to the appropriate office.
- Please see the college catalog for the campus policy on academic dishonesty.
- If you have questions during an exam, please ask me to clarify.
- If you require special assistance during an exam, please see me during the first week of class.
- You will not be permitted to take the exam if you arrive after the first person finishes the exam.
- If you find you need to miss an exam this will be your dropped score unless you have legal documentation for the absence.
- Bring tissue if you have a cold or allergies since you will not be permitted to leave the room during an exam until you are done.
- Cell phones must be turned off—powered off—and placed in your purse or backpack under your desk. **If your cell phone rings or vibrates, you automatically fail the exam.**
- No food, water, candy, etc. will be permitted on your desk during exams.
- You will be required to place all books, backpacks, purses, etc. under your chair or desk or at the front of the room.
- Make sure you zip or fasten all purses, backpacks, etc.
- All exams are closed book, closed notes.
- You will be required to remove all hats with bills and all sunglasses.
- Bring sharp pencils with good erasers since sharpening pencils or asking to borrow supplies is not appropriate college student behavior. **Only standard #2 pencils will be allowed. No mechanical pencils will be allowed.**
- Bring calculators for the exams. You may NOT use your phone and you may NOT share a calculator with someone.

*If you find these rules to be absurd, thank a person you know who has cheated in the past.*

### Grade Reflections (5 points extra credit)

You will find a grade reflection form in Blackboard. Fill it out, answering all the questions fully and return it to me, *in person*, in my office prior to the end of one week after the exam. Be sure to wait until the exam score is posted. This can be done after exams 1, 2, and or 3.

You can sign up for an appointment at <https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=tMbR5SxsvADzVhUvAM8SU6w&hl=en&authkey=CJCSosUN#gid=0>

There is a link in Blackboard. You may also stop by my office to see if I am free.

*You and a friend are in different cars heading toward the same destination.  
The second you or your friend takes a different route, you know the race is on.”*

## ***Class Policies***

### **Attendance**

- Roll is taken at the beginning of class and used to decide borderline grades.
- Make friends with someone in class to get class material if you are absent.
- Being absent is no excuse for a late assignment.
- Any legal documentation you may provide to substantiate said absence must be produced at the next date of attendance along with the required assignment (police report, jail documentation, hospital admittance form, funeral card, doctor's note, tow receipt, NOT a note from mom).

### **Courtesy**

- Turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom. I reserve the right to deduct 5 points for each cell phone/pager interruption. A cell phone/pager interruption on an exam will result in a score of 0 on the exam.
- Please take all of your trash with you when you leave the classroom.

### **The Little Things**

- Assignments that are not stapled will not be accepted—don't ask me for a stapler—I am not your personal Office Depot.

### **Important things to know**

- Attendance and participation will be noted and used to decide borderline grades (grades within 2% of the next grade). It is *your* responsibility to be marked in if you arrive after I take roll. It is *my* perception of participation.
- I will excuse students from class to participate in religious or cultural holidays (yours, not someone else's), however, if anything is due on that day it must be turned in *prior* to that class meeting and you must inform me of your absence *prior* to the absence.
- Check your grades online periodically throughout the semester. Please do NOT email me after the semester ends to ask me to reconsider your grade unless I have made an error on the final exam/project grade.
- Do NOT email me to tell me that another person in your class got the next higher grade and only had ½% more than you or even ½% less (think about your attendance and class participation). If you have an 89.9% you have earned a B. If you have *not* been absent and *have* participated in the class discussions in an appropriate manner, I may bump your grade up to an A.
- Back up all of your work on the computer. I am not responsible for computer or printer malfunctions or loss of electricity. Save all of your graded work until your grade for this class is posted to your record. In fact, you should save everything until your diploma is in your hand.

### **Non Progress/Attendance in Class**

I may drop you for not making progress in the class. The reason is that I don't want you to fail the class because you couldn't keep up. However, you can't be assured that I will drop you before the withdrawal deadline and you really don't want too many Ws on your transcript. Check the drop and withdrawal deadlines on my webpage for this class ([www.canyons.edu/faculty/marencoa](http://www.canyons.edu/faculty/marencoa)) or on the calendar menu item in Blackboard and make sure you drop yourself before the deadline. After you drop the class you will still remain in Blackboard until I manually purge you and you will receive class emails until you are purged. Feel free to send me an email letting me know you have dropped the class and I'll purge you right away.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to do their own work as assigned. At College of the Canyons, we believe that academic integrity and honesty are some of the most important qualities college students need to develop and maintain. To facilitate a culture of academic integrity, College of the Canyons has defined plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Due process procedures have been established when plagiarism or academic dishonesty is suspected.

At COC, we define plagiarism as follows: Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's work or ideas as one's own, without adequate attribution. When a student submits work for a class assignment that includes the words, ideas or data of others, without acknowledging the source of the information through complete, accurate, and specific references, plagiarism is involved. This may include dual submissions of a similar work for credit for more than one class, without the current instructor's knowledge and approval.

To be specific, below are some of the situations that will be considered plagiarism at COC:

- Use information from any source, online or in print, in one's own writing *without* acknowledging the source in the content and in the reference page of the assignment;
- Simply list the sources in the reference page, without parenthetical citations in the body of the essay;
- Take more than one printed line of words consecutively from the source without putting quotation marks around them, even though the student has put the author's name in the parentheses or in the reference page;
- Turn in work done for other classes, regardless how large or small the assignment may be, without the current instructor's approval—this is considered “self-plagiarism,” which is a form of academic dishonesty; or,
- Turn in work by another student, even by accident.

In addition, COC has strict rules against using electronic devices during exams without the instructor's approval. To be specific, absolutely no cell phones or any electronic devices can be on the desk or in sight during a test or exam without the instructor's approval. The presence of electronic devices in sight during exams may be considered as intention to cheat and will be processed as a form of academic dishonesty.

Cases of alleged academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for investigation.

### **Blackboard & Student Accountability Online**

Use of online programs such as Blackboard is strictly limited to the students who are enrolled in that particular course. Individual login information is provided to each student and all activity within an online course is monitored and recorded. To insure the highest level of integrity of student data, user login and password information must never be shared. It is your responsibility as a student to take every measure possible to safeguard your individual login information and never allow other persons (whether a student or not) to have access to this information. Each student must submit his or her own work. Sharing login information or submitting work under another user's identification is a violation of College policy and may result in a formal report of the incident to the Dean of Students. If you feel another person has obtained your unique login information or has accessed your account, contact me and the Distance Learning technology support team immediately.

### **Challenges**

If you need more time for exams, see the Disabled Students office now [www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/dsps). If you are stressed by exams see the TLC now [www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/tlc). If you have financial challenges see EOPS [www.canyons.edu/offices/eops](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/eops). Emotional challenges or a headache, see the health center [www.canyons.edu/offices/Health](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/Health). I am here to help you with class work as well as personal challenges, but you need to come to me if you are having difficulties, I can't read your mind.

### **Time Management**

- Late assignments will not be accepted—don't ask me to make an exception for you.
- Plan for those unforeseen problems by starting on your assignments early—I will gladly accept any assignment early. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. They **MUST** be given to me personally by you or someone else. They may **NOT** be emailed, faxed, or left in my mailbox.

### **Grading Scale**

I strongly suggest that all students check their grade progress regularly during the semester. A=90%+ B=80%-89.9% C=70%-79.9% D=60%-69.9% F=59% and below

### **Incompletes**

Do **NOT** ask me to give you an incomplete when you don't fit the criteria. You must fit all three of the following criteria.

1. a major unforeseen circumstance that can be legally documented
2. passing work up until the time of the circumstance
3. only missing a minority of the course work

*If you decide you do not want to continue in this class, it is your responsibility to drop the class prior to the drop date. Failure to do so will result in a grade of "F" in the class.*

## Soc 135 *Tentative* Course Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Due/Action to be taken on your part</b>	<b>Chapters to read</b>
2/7	Getting acquainted	
2/9	Syllabus questions???	
	Topic 1: Intro to statistics; The survey; Research questions	Ch 1
2/14	<b>Start collecting surveys</b>	
	<b>HW1 due</b>	
	Topic 2: Variables; Levels of measurement	Chs 19, 20
2/16	<b>HW2 due</b>	
2/16, 2/21, 2/23, 2/28	Topic 3: Central tendency; Percentiles; Crosstabulations; Variability; Navigating SPSS	
		Ch 2
2/21	<i>Drop with a refund deadline</i>	
3/1	<b>HW3 due and 10 completed surveys due</b>	
	Topic 4: Coding and cleaning the data	Ch 3
	Creating a dataset in SPSS;	
	<b>If you're using a laptop start bringing it today, otherwise bring a way to take your data home</b>	
3/2	<i>Drop without a W deadline</i>	
3/6	Topic 5: Visuals; Review for exam 1	Ch 4
3/8	<b>HW5 due; Exam 1-bring sharp regular pencils with erasers and your calculator</b>	
3/13	<b>HW4-CLEAN Datasets due</b>	
3/13, 3/15, 3/20, 3/22	Topic 6: Poster Requirements; Hypotheses; Errors; Significance; Normal Curve; Z-Scores	Chs 7, 8
3/27	<b>HW6 due; Review for exam 2 and work on projects, bring posters</b>	
3/29	<b>Exam 2, bring sharp regular pencils with erasers and your calculator</b>	
3/30	<i>Withdrawal deadline</i>	
4/2-4/6	Spring Break	

4/10, 4/12, 4/17, 4/19, 4/24

Topic 7: Relationships; Reliability and Validity;  
Scales; Regression

Chs 5, 6, 14, 15, 17

4/26 **HW7 due**; Review for exam 3 and work on projects, bring posters

5/1 **Exam 3, bring sharp regular pencils with erasers and your calculator**

5/3, 5/8, 5/10

Topic 8: Groups: *t*-Tests and ANOVAs

Chs 10, 11, 12

5/15 **HW8 due**; Review for exam 4 and work on projects, bring posters

5/17 **Exam 4, bring sharp regular pencils with erasers and your calculator**

*Now is a good time to get advised for next semester*

5/22 Poster preview

5/24 Review for exam 5

5/29 **Poster presentations**

5/31 **Exam 5**

6/1 *Graduation*