

**SOCIOLOGY 702**  
**INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS**  
**FALL, 2007**  
**DRAFT COPY**

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**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. There will be 8-10 homework assignments. These will typically involve some computer analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). This work will constitute thirty percent (30%) of your course grade. It is **ESSENTIAL** that this work is done **ON TIME**, which I define as 3:00 pm on the date due, unless otherwise noted. Late papers will lose 1 point (of a possible 10) of the grade per calendar day.

2. Each student will prepare two 9-12 page papers based on independent analysis of data on a topic chosen by the student. A more detailed description of this requirement will be given later.

**Paper 1 is due October 19 at 3:00 PM.** (30% of course grade)

**Paper 2 is due December 15 at 3:00 PM.** (40% of course grade)

Late papers will be penalized 3 (or 4) points (of a possible 30 or 40) per calendar day.

**NOTE:** For both Papers 1 and 2, except for catastrophic medical or grievous personal reasons, I will **NOT** grant extensions.

**COURSE TEXTS:**

Required:

Denise F. Polit *DATA ANALYSIS AND STATISTICS*

Recommended Supplementary Reading:

Norusis, Marija J. *SPSS 14.0 (or 13.0 or 12.0) GUIDE TO DATA ANALYSIS*

Several other books may be of use for reference purposes. They are on reserve in O'Neill Library, as are the required texts. They are:

J. Levin & J. Fox, *ELEMENTARY STATISTICS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH*

HA29.L388

J. Hedderson, *SPSS MADE SIMPLE*

HA32.H43

Michael A. Malec, *ESSENTIAL STATISTICS FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH*  
(2nd ed.)

H61.M4224

*GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEYS: CUMULATIVE CODEBOOK* HN29.N33

Also on reserve, and perhaps of use for the term papers, is:

T. Smith and B.J. Arnold, *ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAPERS*  
*USING THE GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY*

HA155.S55

**TOPICS AND READINGS**

Dates are subject to change

Additional topics may be added as time allows

## 1. INTRODUCTION; USING SPSS (Week of Sept. 4)

Objectives: to learn some of the basics of SPSS programming; to submit an SPSS run.

Reading: Handouts as assigned or distributed  
Polit, Chs. 1-2; Norusis, Chs. 1, 2 and 7

## 2. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS (Sep. 11, 18)

Objectives: to be able to use, and interpret the output of, the **FREQUENCIES** and **DESCRIPTIVE** procedures in SPSS.

Topics Considered: level of measurement (nominal, ordinal, interval, ratio), histograms, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, percentiles, Z scores, mean, median, mode, variance, standard deviation, standard error, skewness, range, the normal distribution. Other topics as deemed appropriate.

Reading:  
Norusis, Chs 3-6 and 10; Polit, Ch. 3; Levin & Fox (L&F), Chs. 1-6 (esp. 5 and 6);  
Malec, Chs. 1-4

## 3. DIFFERENCES IN MEANS (Sept. 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16)

**Paper 1 is due Friday, October 19 at 3:00 PM** (30% of course grade). Late papers will be penalized 3 points (of a possible 30) per calendar day.

Objectives: to be able to use, and interpret the output of, the **T-TEST** and **ONEWAY** procedures.

Topics Considered: probability; sampling distribution, samples vs populations, simple random samples vs other types of samples; the research hypothesis, the null hypothesis, directional vs nondirectional research hypotheses; alpha and the critical region; Type I vs Type II error; statistical significance vs substantive significance, sampling distribution of the mean, confidence intervals, one-tailed vs two-tailed tests; the t-test; equal (or pooled) variance estimate vs unequal (or separate) variance estimate; simple one-way analysis of variance. Other topics as deemed appropriate.

Reading:  
Norusis, Chs. 9 and 12-14; Polit, Chs. 6-7; L&F, Chs. 10 and 11; Malec, Ch. 7

## 4. CROSSTABULATION AND MEASURES OF ASSOCIATION (Oct. 23, 30)

Objectives: to be able to use, and interpret the output of, the **CROSSTABS** procedure, to understand the distinction between a measure of association and a test of significance, to understand the concept of statistical inference and the uses and misuses of tests of significance.

Topics Considered: measures of association (nominal measures, Chi-Square, PRE measures, ordinal measures; the elaboration paradigm (explanation, interpretation, specification, spurious relationships, suppresser variables); main and interaction effects in crosstabs tables. Other topics as deemed appropriate.

Reading:

Norusis, Ch. 7-9, 17, and 19 (also 394-396); Polit, Ch. 8; Malec, Ch. 8, 9 (pp. 137-154), 11 (pp. 184-193); L&F, Chs. 7-9, 12, and 13 (pp. 330-354)

**5. PEARSON CORRELATION COEFFICIENT ( $r$ ), PARTIAL CORRELATION, SCATTERPLOTS, AND SIMPLE REGRESSION (Nov. 6, 13, 20)**

**Nov. 22 is Thanksgiving – no class.**

Objectives: to be able to use, and interpret the output of, the **CORRELATIONS** and **PARTIAL CORR** procedures.

Topics Considered: the Pearson correlation coefficient, R-square, slope, intercept, the equation for a regression line, predicted value vs actual value, standard error of estimate, use and interpretation of scattergrams, partial correlation, higher order partials. Other topics as deemed appropriate.

Reading:

Norusis (12.0 or 11.0), Chs. 19 and 20; Polit, Ch. 9; L&F Ch. 13 (to p. 330)  
Malec, Ch. 9 (pp. 154-158), 10, 11 (pp. 189-192)

**6. NONPARAMETRIC TESTS (Nov. 27)**

Objectives: to be able to use, and interpret the output of, the **NONPAR TESTS** and **NONPAR CORR** procedures

Topics Considered:

Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, Mann-Whitney test (and others as time allows). Other topics as deemed appropriate.

Reading: Norusis, Ch. 18; Polit, Ch. 8

**Paper 2 is due Friday, December 15 at 3:00 PM** (40% of course grade). Late papers will be penalized 4 points (of a possible 40) per calendar day.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

It is your obligation to be fully aware of the Boston College policies on academic honesty. ANY violation may subject the offender to severe penalty, including course failure. If you are not familiar with the Boston College policy on academic honesty, see the 2006-07 Boston College Bulletin, pp. 34-36, or on the web at:

[www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity)