

SC200: STATISTICS

Fall 2008

This is a tentative syllabus. The final version will be distributed in September.

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This course provides an introduction to the use of statistics for social science data analysis. Students are expected to develop an understanding of commonly used descriptive and inferential statistics and to become competent in the use of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

Course **REQUIREMENTS** include:

(a) Three 75-minute quizzes (50%). Four quizzes will be given, however only your three best scores will count. Make-up quizzes will **NOT** be given; if you miss one quiz, it will be the one that is not counted. A second missed quiz will count as a zero, unless **BOTH** absences are due to documented medical reasons, or upon my receipt of a written excuse from a Dean's Office. Each quiz will cover about a 3-week period of the course. Hand calculators may be used. I will give you a one-week notice before each quiz, but **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW WHEN EACH QUIZ WILL BE GIVEN**. The quiz dates below are estimated dates; I will try to stick closely to the dates listed, but I cannot guarantee the dates until one week prior to a quiz.

b) A final exam (25%). The final will be cumulative, covering the entire course. The final exam is held on the day/time set by the Registrar: **THURSDAY, DEC. 18 AT 9:00 am. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS!** Do not ask for an alternative date. Do not buy airline tickets for an earlier departure. If you must get sick on that date, get very, very sick.

(c) Homework assignments (25%). There will be 7-9 homework assignments; these will require work with SPSS. These are due on the date assigned; late submissions will be penalized 10% for each calendar day late – **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

VERY IMPORTANT: Do keep a copy of all of your work. Do retain all of the work that is returned to you (homework and quizzes) until after you have received your final course grade.

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 2008-09 Boston College Bulletin, p, 36, or on the web at:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>

TEXTS:

The following **REQUIRED** text is available at the BC Bookstore:

Joseph F. Healey: *THE ESSENTIALS OF STATISTICS* (Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007).

Also available in the Bookstore is an **OPTIONAL** text; I suggest this for those who want to understand the SPSS software more completely:

Marija Norusis: *SPSS 16.0 STATISTICAL PROCEDURES COMPANION* (or version 15.0 or 13.0, etc.)

The following is a **SUPPLEMENT** to the required readings and is on reserve in O'Neill:

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

There are many other fine introductory texts. If one book doesn't "work" for you, do try another. A few are on reserve in O'Neill.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE (Actual dates may vary)

WEEK OF: TOPIC AND READINGS

Sept. 2 Introduction
 READ: Healey, Chs. 1-2;
 Optional: Norusis, Ch. 1; Malec, Chs. 1-2

Sept. 9, 16, 23 Centrality and Dispersion
 READ: Healey, Ch. 3-4.
 Optional: Norusis, Ch. 5; Malec, Chs. 3-4.

(QUIZ 1 on or about Thursday, Sept. 25)

Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14 Probability, Sampling, and Estimation; the normal curve; z-scores;
 hypothesis testing; the t-test
 READ: Healey, Chs. 5-8.
 Optional: Norusis, 115-127; Ch. 8 (t-test); Malec, Chs. 5-7

Oct. 21 Analysis of Variance
 READ: Healey, Ch. 9.
 Optional: Norusis, 143-156; Malec, Ch. 8

(QUIZ 2 on or about Thursday, October 23)

Oct. 28, Nov. 4 Measures of Association (Nominal Level)
READ: Healey, Chs. 10-11.
Optional: Norusis, 164-170; 172-178; Malec, Ch. 9

Nov. 11, 18 Measures of Association (Ordinal Level)
READ: Healey, Ch. 12.
Optional: Malec, Norusis, 179-182; Ch. 10

(QUIZ 3 on about Thursday, Nov. 20)

Nov. 25, Dec. 2 Measures of Association (Interval Level)
READ: Healey, Chs. 13-14.
Optional: Norusis, 197-206; Malec, Ch. 11-12

Nov. 27 — Thanksgiving— No Class

(QUIZ 4 on about Thursday, Dec. 4)

**THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN ONLY ON
THE DAY SET BY THE REGISTRAR
THURSDAY, DEC. 18 AT 9:00 AM.
THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAM.**

**AT ALL TIMES, THE CLASSROOM IS A NO-CELL-PHONE ZONE.
PLEASE TURN OFF ALL THINGS THAT RING, BEEP,
OR OTHERWISE MIGHT INTRUDE.
(This includes laptop computers, unless you have my specific permission.)**