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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 MATERIALS


- **Recommended Text:** *SPSS Statistics 20 Brief Guide.* The “Brief Guide” may come in handy as a reference manual throughout the course; you can access it on the course Blackboard page (log in at cms.bc.edu).

- **SPSS Software:** One of the goals of this course is for you to become familiar with SPSS software. You will be asked to use it for all homework assignments. There are three options for accessing SPSS: (1) use it online via apps.bc.edu, (2) lease it for 6 or 12 months ($40 or $70), or (3) use it on one of BC’s computers. See page 4 of the syllabus for more information on these options.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your grade in the course will be broken down as follows:

- Homeworks 40%
- Quizzes 30%
- Final Exam 30%

**HOMEWORKS (40%):** Throughout the semester, 6 homework assignments will be given, but only the top 5 scores will count toward your final grade. Thus, each assignment will contribute 8% toward your final grade. So, you can complete all 6 and the lowest score will be dropped, or you can do just 5 of the 6 and all of them will count. **Homework assignments are**
due at the beginning of class in hard copy. Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction per day, with the first deduction taking effect when the assignment is not turned in at the start of class.

QUIZZES (30%): Throughout the semester, 4 quizzes will be given, but only the top 3 scores will count toward your final grade. Thus, each quiz will contribute 10% toward your final grade. So, as with the homeworks, you can take all 4 and the lowest score will be dropped, or, if you must miss class on a quiz day, the 3 that you do take will all count. If you miss a second quiz it will count as a zero unless you have a note from the Dean’s office or a documented medical excuse. In all other cases, make-up quizzes will not be given.

FINAL EXAM (30%): A comprehensive final exam (covering the entire semester of material) will be given on Wednesday, December 19 at 9:00am, room TBA. The exam may not be given at any other time! Also, please note that at least part of the last day of class will be dedicated to review for the final exam.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Sept. 4  Introduction, Descriptive and Inferential Statistics, Levels of Measurement

Part 1: Univariate Descriptive Statistics

Sept. 6  Measures of Central Tendency
READING: Healey, Chapters 1 and 3

Sept. 11  Charts and Graphs, General Social Survey, Using SPSS
READING: Healey, Chapter 2, pp. 43-49

Sept. 13  Measures of Dispersion
READING: Healey, Chapter 4

Sept. 18  The Normal Curve, Z Scores
READING: Healy, Chapter 5
HOMEWORK 1 DUE

Part 2: Inferential Statistics

Sept. 20  Probability, Sampling, and Estimation; Review for Quiz 1
READING: Healey, Chapter 6

Sept. 25  QUIZ 1

Sept. 27  Introduction to Hypothesis Testing, One Sample t-tests
READING: Healey, Chapter 7

Oct. 2  One sample cont., Two Sample t-tests
HOMEWORK 2 DUE

Oct. 4  Two sample t-tests
READING: Healey, Chapter 8
Oct. 9  Analysis of Variance
       READING: Healey, Chapter 9
Oct. 11 Chi-Square Test
       READING: Healey, Chapter 10
       HOMEWORK 3 DUE
Oct. 16 Finish up Part 2; Review for Quiz 2
Oct. 18  QUIZ 2

Part 3: Measures of Association and Multivariate Techniques

Oct. 23 Measures of Association: Nominal Level
       READING: Healey, Chapter 11
Oct. 25 Nominal Level (cont.)
       HOMEWORK 4 DUE
Oct. 30 Measures of Association: Ordinal Level
       READING: Healey, Chapter 12
Nov.  1 Ordinal Level (cont.)
       HOMEWORK 5 DUE
Nov.  6 Review for Quiz 3
Nov.  8  QUIZ 3
Nov. 13 Measures of Association: Interval Level
       READING: Healey, Chapter 13
Nov. 15 Interval Level
       HOMEWORK 6 DUE
Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27 Multivariate Techniques; Review for Quiz 4
       READING: Healey, Chapter 14
Nov. 29  QUIZ 4
Dec.  4 Multivariate Techniques
Dec.  6 Wrap-Up and Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM:  WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19 AT 9:00AM, ROOM TBA
ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Tutoring at the Connors Family Learning Center: Did you know that statistics is one of the most common subjects for tutoring at the CFLC? If you think some tutoring sessions might be helpful, please don’t hesitate to contact them to schedule an appointment (either by calling 617-552-0611 or by dropping in to the Center, on the second floor of O’Neill Library). More information is also available on their website:
http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring/tutoringinfo.html.

Using SPSS:

Option #1—Use SPSS Online via the BC Application Server. In order to use SPSS over the web, you must first download a program called Citrix. This is the software that allows you to use SPSS (and a host of other software programs) over the internet. You can download Citrix at: apps.bc.edu. Once you have downloaded Citrix, follow these steps to use SPSS:

1. Go to apps.bc.edu. If you see a welcome page click the “continue” button.
2. Log in using your BC username and password.
3. Click on the folder titled “Statistical Applications.”
4. Click on the link for “SPSS Statistics 20.” The SPSS software will open; it may take a moment or two.

**Important: If you encounter any problems using BC Apps, please inform Research Services at researchservices@bc.edu! If possible, take a screenshot to document the problem.**

Option #2—Lease SPSS. At the website www.onthehub.com/spss you can lease a copy of SPSS for your computer for either 6 or 12 months. There are a few different versions available; the one you want is IBM SPSS Statistics 20 Base GradPack. (You don’t need the “standard” or “premium” packs; “base” is just fine.) Also note that there are versions for both Macs and PCs—be sure you get the right one! The cost to lease SPSS is $40 for 6 months and $70 for 12 months.

Option #3—Use SPSS on a BC Computer. A fine alternative to leasing SPSS or using it remotely is to use one of the computers in the CTRC, all of which have SPSS installed.

Whichever of these options you decide to go with, don’t hesitate to contact myself, help.center@bc.edu or researchservices@bc.edu if you have any questions or if any issues arise.

Academic Integrity: It is your obligation to be fully aware of the Boston College policies on academic honesty. Any violation will be taken very seriously and may subject the offender to severe penalty, including course failure. Please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with BC’s policy on academic integrity at www.bc.edu/integrity.