SC200: STATISTICS
Fall 2013

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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 written excuses 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: Wednesday Dec. 18 at 9:00 am. THERE ARE 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 sick.

c) Homework assignments (25%). There will be 7-8 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! While your lowest quiz may be dropped, ALL of the HWs will count, so do complete all of them, and on time.

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.
TEXTS:

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


**RECOMMENDED:** Elliot T. Berkman and Steven P. Riese, *A CONCEPTUAL GUIDE TO STATISTICS USING SPSS* (Los Angeles: Sage, 2012). There are many other useful books on SPSS at the introductory level.

**ALSO RECOMMENDED:** You might also want to download the "SPSS Brief Guide 19.0.pdf" from this web page:


The “Brief Guide” can be used as a reference manual later in the course. NOTE: The 'Brief Guide'' has 171 pages, so you may not want to print it. The Guide is also available on Blackboard Vista.

The following books are on reserve in O'Neill:

Marija Norusis: *SPSS 17.0 (or 18.0 or 19.0) GUIDE TO DATA ANALYSIS* Prentice-Hall 2008 HA32/N67222

Marija Norusis: *IBM SPSS 19.0 (or 17.0 or 18.0) STATISTICAL PROCEDURES COMPANION* HA32. N6526


Nancy Leech et al., *SPSS FOR INTERMEDIATE STATISTICS* (3rd ed.) HA32.L444


GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEYS: CUMULATIVE CODEBOOK HN29.N33

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE (Actual dates may vary)

<table>
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<th>WEEK OF:</th>
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| Sept. 3: | Introduction; SPSS and GSS  
READ: Healey, Chs. 1-2; Optional: Berkman, Ch. 1; Malec, Chs. 1-2 |
| Sept. 10, 17, and 24 | Centrality and Dispersion  
READ: Healey, Ch. 3-4 (3-5 in 2nd ed.); Optional: Berkman, Ch. 2; Malec, Chs. 3-4. |
| (QUIZ 1 on or about Thursday, Sept. 26) |
| Oct. 1, 8, 15 | Probability, Sampling, and Estimation; the normal curve; z-scores; hypothesis testing; the t-test  
READ: Healey, Chs. 5-8 (6-9); Optional: Berkman, Ch. 5; Malec, Chs. 5-7 |
| (QUIZ 2 on or about Thursday, Oct. 24) |
| Oct. 22: | Analysis of Variance  
READ: Healey, Ch. 9 (10); Optional: Berkman, Ch. 6; Malec, Ch. 8 |
| Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 | Measures of Association (Nominal Level)  
READ: Healey, Chs. 10-11 (11-12); Optional: Berkman, Chg. 3; Malec, Ch. 9 |
| Nov. 12, 19 | Measures of Association (Ordinal Level)  
READ: Healey, Ch. 12 (13); Optional: Malec, Ch. 10 |
| NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 28: THANKSGIVING |
| (QUIZ 3 on or about Thursday, Nov. 21) |
| Nov, 26, Dec. 3 | Measures of Association (Interval Level)  
READ: Healey, Chs. 13-14 (14-15); Optional: Berkman, Ch. 4; Malec, Ch. 11-12 |
| (QUIZ 4 on or about Tuesday, Dec. 10) |
THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN ONLY ON
THE DAY SET BY THE REGISTRAR:
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18 AT 9:00 AM.
THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAM.

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

IN THE CLASSROOM:
• I will always try to begin class on time; I also expect you to be here on time.
• Unless you have a medical condition (of which you should notify me), please use the
  bathroom before class; do not leave the room for a bathroom (or other) break unless it is
  an emergency.
• The classroom is not a dining hall; no food is allowed; a liquid in a spill-proof
  container is allowed.
• Gentlemen do not wear hats indoors, except for religious reasons.

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:

http://www.bc.edu/integrity