

S110: Charts, Graphs & Tables

Spring 2015 - Section 26429

Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 – 3:45 pm in Ballantine Hall 347

Instructor: Ms. Tamara van der Does

Office: Weatherly 138

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00am to 12:30pm at the IU Art Museum coffee shop (1133 E Seventh Street, 2nd floor), or by appointment

Email: tvanderd@indiana.edu (when sending emails, **start subject line with “S110”**)

Mailbox: Ballantine Hall 744 box **next to** “van der Does” (office is open Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm)

Course Description

Statistics are everywhere in our daily lives as people around us, and in the media, use numbers to bolster their argument. For all their persuasiveness, these statistics cannot always be accepted without examination. In this course, students will learn how to examine social statistics from a critical perspective and produce their own research using the same tools. You will become familiar with the central concepts, measures, and methods that sociologists use to understand the social world.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Read and understand social statistics more comprehensively.
2. Produce, interpret, and present social statistics using meaningful representations.
3. Apply the sociological perspective to social problems

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Required Texts

- Best, Joel. 2008. *Statspotting: A Field Guide to Identifying Dubious Data*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Additional Readings will be posted on the course’s Canvas page throughout the semester under the files tab and in the readings folder.
- A **Scientific calculator** with natural log function is **required for the exams**. Laptops, tablets, smartphones, etc will not be allowed.

Other Resources

- Lane, David M. *Online Statistics Education: A Multimedia Course of Study* (<http://onlinestatbook.com/2/> and on Canvas as pdf).

Exams

There will be **two in-class exams** in this course (**Thursday February 19th** and **Tuesday April 7th**). These will be closed books and may include multiple choice, short-answer, essay and mathematical questions. The exams will cover the lectures and the readings.

In-class Assignments

There will be a total of 15 **in-class Assignments**. Each assignment will be worth 20 points and **your five lowest grades will be dropped**. They will test your understanding of the readings for that day and ask you to apply the statistical concepts learned in class. The in-class assignments will be open notes so make sure you take notes from the readings and the lectures. Completing these will be good practice for the exams. Regardless of your excuse for being absent, **you cannot make up an in-class assignment**.

Group Paper

There will be one group research project where you will analyze and present data from a national survey that I will provide. **I will randomly assign** each student to teams that consist of 3-4 students. You will develop a research question, summarize the findings, and analyze them using concepts and topics we have studied in class in a group paper of 5 to 7 pages of text (not including tables, double-spaced, 12 point font). The final **paper is due Tuesday May 5th at 3pm** through Turnitin on Canvas. Before the paper is due, your team will turn in a **project proposal in class on Thursday March 12th and present the findings in class on either Tuesday April 28th or Thursday April 30th**. The proposal will be worth 25 points, the paper 150 points, the presentation 100 points, and the team evaluation 25 points. I will give everyone an individual grade based on the proposal, the group's paper, the presentation, attendance to classes discussing the group project, and the feedback from the other teammates (**the team evaluation will be due Tuesday May 5th at 3pm on Canvas**). There will be several class times set-up where I will enable teams to meet. However, each team will be responsible for scheduling additional meetings. I will provide more information about the group paper after the first exam.

Participation and Attendance

I expect all students to come to class regularly, to be on time, and to be fully prepared by having done all the readings and assignments. I will cover information in my lectures that is not covered in the assigned readings and not presented in the slides. **If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student**. There is no attendance policy, but class participation will count as 10% of your final grade. Your class participation grade will also take into account coming to office hours, sending me e-mails with reflective comments/questions, and sharing thoughts/ideas during class.

Final Grade Calculation

Exam 1:	200	20%
Exam 2:	200	20%
Group Paper/Presentation/Feedback :	300	30%
In-class assignments:	200	20%
Participation:	100	10%
Total Possible:	1,000 points	100%

Final Grading Scale

97-100%	(970-1000 points)	A+	73-76.9%	(730-769 points)	C
93-96.9%	(930-969 points)	A	70-72.9%	(700-729 points)	C-
90-92.9%	(900-929 points)	A-	67-69.9%	(670-699 points)	D+
87-89.9%	(870-899 points)	B+	63-66.9%	(630-669 points)	D
83-86.9%	(830-869 points)	B	60-62.9%	(600-629 points)	D-
80-82.9%	(800-829 points)	B-	0-59.9%	(0-599 points)	F
77-79.9%	(770-799 points)	C+			

COURSE GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

Academic Integrity

I do not tolerate academic misconduct, and will take appropriate university action if it is discovered. The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct's definition of academic misconduct includes but is not limited to: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, interference, and violation of course rules. For more information, please see the Student Code of Rights, Responsibility and Conduct (<http://indiana.edu/~code/code/index.shtml>).

Special Needs

In compliance with the Americans and Disabilities Act (ADA), IU seeks to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibilities to inform the instructor and to contact the Disability Student Service Office (855-7578; <http://studentaffairs.iub.edu/dss/>) so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Incompletes

In accordance with departmental and university policy, I will not grant an incomplete unless extremely unusual and documented circumstances are present.

Communication

There are multiple ways to contact me with your questions and concerns:

- **Email (tvanderd@indiana.edu):** If you choose to email me, please do so using my email address and not through Canvas. Please include S110 in the subject line. I check my email at least once a day; however, please allow at least 24 hours for my response. I will answer weekend emails by the end of day on Mondays. As a participant in this class **it is your responsibility to check your Indiana University email on a regular basis** (especially if you miss class).
- **Office Hours:** My office hours are set aside specifically to meet and talk with students (Tuesdays from 11am to 12:30pm) **if you are not able to come at the times listed on the syllabus, please let me know by email and we will set up an appointment.**

Electronics

Please turn off cell phones and other small electronics during class time. If there is any reason your phone or other electronic device needs to be left on during class, let me know before class. If you are texting, playing games, etc on a phone or other small electronic device during class time, you will be asked to leave and counted as absent for the day. Laptops and tablets are frequently a distraction, not just to students using them but to others sitting nearby. For this reason, **laptops and tablets will not be allowed in class.** Exceptions will be made only in the case of documented need for the use of a laptop. No part of my class may be audio or video recorded without my permission.

Make-up Exams

Typically, there will be no make-up exams; the exceptions to this policy are extreme circumstances or religious holidays. If you miss an exam for one of these reasons, you must provide me with the proper documentation. In addition, make-up exams will be graded to reflect the extra time that students had to study and will be different from the exam given in class.

Late Policy

Group papers that have not been submitted to me by the beginning of the class in which they are due will be considered late. **Late papers will be penalized by a 10% deduction of the assignment grade for each day they are late** (including weekends).

Religious holiday accommodation

In accordance with University policy, **religious holiday accommodation forms must be turned in during the first two weeks of the semester.** You can find the “Request for Accommodations for Religious Observances” form at the following link: <http://www.indiana.edu/~vpfaa/forms/index.shtml#religious>

Classroom Etiquette

We will be discussing a variety of potentially sensitive topics including race, class, gender, religion and politics. Be aware that each person comes to class with a unique background and perspective and I expect you to be respectful and open-minded when listening to viewpoints other than your own. A lack of courtesy will not be tolerated.

CLASS SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule for the course that **may need slight adjustments** as we move through the semester. Any changes will be announced in class prior to the effective date and you are responsible for keeping up with those changes.

You must complete readings **before** the class for which they are listed. Come to class prepared to discuss the readings. The introduction chapters might be useful to better understand each article.

CA – Indicates a reading found under the course page on Canvas under the “Files” tab (*iu.instructure.com*)

SS – Indicates a chapter in Best’s *Stat-Spotting: A Field Guide to Identifying Dubious Data*

Date	Topics, Readings and Assignments
Tue 1/13	Introduction and Syllabus No Readings
Thu 1/15	Introduction to Sociology OC Mills "The Sociological Imagination"
Tue 1/20	Data and Variables SS Best "Background" pp 7-16 Best "Definitions: What Did They Count" pp 41-48
Thu 1/22	Conceptualization and Operationalization SS Best "Blunders" pp 17-26 Best "Sources: Who Counted And Why?" pp 27-40
Tue 1/27	Symbolic Interactionism and Socialization CA Gracey "Learning the Student Role"
Thu 1/29	Samples and population SS Best "Packaging: What Are They Telling Us?" pp 64-85
Tue 2/3	Gender CA Armstrong et al. "Is Hooking Up Bad for Young Women?"
Thu 2/5	Measures of Centrality CA Cohen "Poverty is not just for single mothers"
Tue 2/10	Gender (continued) CA Cha "Reinforcing Separate Spheres"
Thu 2/12	Measures of Spread SS Best "Measurements: How Did They Count?" pp 49-63
Tue 2/17	Measure of Spread (continued) <i>No Readings</i>
Thu 2/19	*Exam 1*
Tue 2/24	Group Project Discussion Missing this class will affect your final group project date
Thu 2/26	Social Class and Inequality CA Kohn "Social Class And Parental Values"
Tue 3/3	Describing a relationship: cross-tabs CA Nardi "Chapter 3: Interpreting Relationships"
Thu 3/5	Race and Racial Discrimination CA Bertrand and Mullainathan "Are Emily And Greg More Employable"
Tue 3/10	Describing a relationship: correlations SS Best "Debates" What If They Disagree?" pp 86-102
Thu 3/12	Immigration *GROUP PAPER PROPOSAL DUE* CA Poros "Migrant Social Networks: Vehicles for Migration, Integration, and Development."
	Spring Break

Tue 3/24	Immigration and Review
	CA
Thu 3/26	Demography, Rates, Religious Extremism and Terrorism
	CA The Economist: "America's demographic squeeze" "How does immigration affect crime" "Sleep and the Economy" Juergensmeyer: "The Global Rise of Religious Violence."
Tue 3/31	Central Limit Theorem and confidence intervals
	ONLINE http://onlinestatbook.com/2/sampling_distributions/clt_demo.html <i>Read the introduction, watch the video and run the simulation</i>
Thu 4/2	Central Limit Theorem (continued)
	<i>No Readings</i>
Tue 4/7	***Exam 2***
Thu 4/9	Data Presentation and Interpretation
	OC Nardi Chapter 1 "Describing Data" OC Nardi Chapter 2 "Understanding Tables"
Tue 4/14	Excel Workshop – Bring at least 1 computer per group
	<i>Skipping this class will affect your group project grade</i>
Thu 4/16	Excel Workshop – Bring at least 1 computer per group
	<i>Skipping this class will affect your group project grade</i>
Tue 4/21	Data Presentation and Interpretation – Group Project Discussion
Thu 4/23	Wrapping up
Tue 4/28	Poster Presentations groups A-H
	<i>Skipping this class will affect your group project grade</i>
Thu 4/30	Poster Presentations groups I-Q
	<i>Skipping this class will affect your group project grade</i>
Tue 5 /5	***Final Paper Due at 3pm on Canvas***
	No exceptions!