SOCI 4003: Social Statistics
Fall 2015

Class Information: TLC 1116, Tues & Thurs 12:30-1:50 P.M.
Instructor: Winston Tripp
Office: 205-A Pafford
Email: Email through CourseDen
Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 9-11:30 A.M.; Wed 12-2:30 P.M.

Overview
This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the subject of Statistics for
the Social Sciences. To be successful in the course you must read the material, attend
each class, be engaged in the lectures, ask questions, and practice. I cannot emphasize
this last point enough. Every component of this class is designed to help you practice
statistical analysis and to improve your statistical literacy. The main objective of this
course is for you to gain both computational mastery and substantive comprehension of
commonly used statistics found in the sociological research.

Required Texts:
It is your responsibility to secure access to the following texts at the beginning of the
term. Your success in the course is very closely related to you obtaining and using this
textbook.

(ISBN#: 978-1111829568)*

Learning Objectives
By the end of the course, the student will be able to accurately and effectively achieve the
following:

- Correctly select the level of measurement of a variable and justify this decision.
- Be able to compute measures of central tendency and dispersion for variables at a
  variety of levels of measurement.
- Be able to explain the difference between descriptive and inferential statistics.
- Be able to compute point estimates and confidence intervals for a population
given the sample statistics.
- Be able to accurately conduct and draw conclusions from One-Sample, Two-
  Sample, and Chi-Square hypothesis tests.
- Explain the meaning of Measures of Association and produce relevant measures
  for nominal, ordinal, and interval-ratio variables.
- Describe the logic of the Ordinary Least Squares Regression model, and calculate
  the coefficients.
Course Evaluation
Your grade for the class will be composed of daily quizzes, three exams, and an analysis paper. Grades will be assigned as follows. Note that I DO NOT round your final grade.

90-100% = A
80-89.9% = B
70-79.9% = C
60-69.9% = D

Grading Structure (total possible percentage points for the course)
Quizzes (highest 20 will be counted) 20%
Exam #1 & 2 20%
Exam # 3 25%
Analysis Paper 15%

1. Quizzes (1% each)
There will be quizzes in-class every day starting in the second week of class and lasting until the final exam. On some days there may be multiple quizzes. There will not be any quizzes on exam days, on holidays, or if we have cancelled class. Quizzes may include questions on any concepts covered up to the day of the quiz (and may be on material that we have covered in previous weeks to ensure you are retaining concepts).

Each quiz is worth 1% of your final grade and I will count your best 20 toward your final grade. Since that means there will be several quizzes that may not count, there won’t be any make-up quizzes given. You must be in class to take the quiz.

2. Exams
There will be a total of three exams in class. The final exam is cumulative. Exams will require you to explain concepts as well as calculate and interpret statistics.

3. Analysis Paper (15%)
There will also be a lab assignment that will require you to do statistical analyses using the Excel program. The Excel program is available in most of the campus computer labs. Papers will be turned in to me electronically through CourseDen. I will check for plagiarism. Your paper must be submitted as a Microsoft Word file (either .doc or .docx). It is your responsibility to make sure your paper is submitted correctly. Files submitted (even accidentally) as any other format, such as an .lnk file, will not be accepted. Late papers will not be accepted.

Technological Requirements
CourseDen will be used extensively for this course. It is your responsibility to secure reliable access to a computer with an internet connection so that you are able to utilize CourseDen. If you have problems with the CourseDen system you should contact the Distance Learning center or ITS (855-933-8946). Make sure you plan ahead, because unless I am explicitly notified by the Distance Learning Center that CourseDen has
experienced an outage, there will be no extensions given on assignments if you were not able to get CourseDen to function correctly. Internet problems are not acceptable excuses for turning your work in late.

You will need to obtain a calculator capable of performing basic functions such as squaring and square roots (more sophisticated can be helpful but is not required). You are not allowed to use a cell phone or any other device that is capable of connecting to the internet. You will need to bring this to class every day for the quizzes or exams. I do not provide calculators during quizzes or exams if you do not have one that functions.

**Attendance**
Regular attendance at all class meetings is expected. You are also expected to be in the class on time for the entire duration of the class. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early I expect you to let me know beforehand, to sit by the door, and to be as quiet as possible in order to avoid disturbing others. You are responsible for all content disseminated in class, including discussions, films, lectures, handouts, and in-class assignments. If you must miss a class, it is up to you to obtain any notes or materials from your classmates.

**Email Policy**
The best way to contact me is through my CourseDen email. I will make every effort to respond with you within 24 hours, during normal business hours (M-F, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M). However, do not expect to email me with a question the night before an exam or a paper is due and have a response before the deadline. I use the CourseDen system for the course so that I am better able to manage my courses, so I will only respond to emails sent through CourseDen. Papers sent as an email attachment to any email address will not be accepted. Email is considered official correspondence at UWG and, as such, must be written in a professional manner. You are expected to include a subject line, a proper salutation and valediction, and include proper punctuation. I will not respond to emails that do not follow this format.

**Office Hours**
My office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus. If you plan to come see me, I strongly suggest that you email me to make an appointment during this time to ensure that I am available when you come to my office. Once we schedule a time to meet make sure not to miss your appointment.

**UWG Common Course Syllabi Link**
Students are responsible for reviewing the information provided through the following link each semester:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
Policy on Student Responsibilities and Classroom Conduct
1. Students are responsible for attending all classes and arriving to class on time, taking notes, and obtaining other materials provided by the instructor, taking tests, and completing assignments as scheduled by the instructor.
2. Students are responsible for keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.
3. Students are responsible for monitoring their grades. Grades are continually posted and updated on CourseDen. Any errors need to be brought to the instructor’s attention within two weeks of being posted. Your scores are available on CourseDen, and I will not calculate your grade for you.
4. Behaviors that disrupt other students’ learning are not acceptable (e.g., arriving consistently late for class; cell phone use, reading non-course related materials, or social conversation during class).
5. Students are expected to respect others in our discussions, even when we disagree with their ideas. Personal attacks or harassing behavior is NOT acceptable. Students are expected to be able to engage the topics and material for the course whether they agree with the author or not.

Academic Integrity
All students are expected to act with personal integrity, respect other students’ dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through thru their efforts. In this course, it is considered dishonest to utilize any helps when taking exams, plagiarizing, and fabricating information. This list is not inclusive. Remember that it is you responsibility to ensure that you are not plagiarizing from another student or other author. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive a zero for the work, and potentially the course depending on the severity of the incident, and they will be reported to the University’s Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanctions. It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand this policy, which is available online at http://www.westga.edu/soccrim/index_4657.php.

Accommodation Statement
Students who seek accommodations related to documented disabilities should first contact the Office of Disability Services, located in the Student Development Center (123 Row Hall, Phone: 678-839-6428). The coordinators in Disability Services will communicate with me to make accommodations based on your needs.

Tentative Schedule
The schedule is available on CourseDen and is tentative and subject to change at any time. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any changes that may be necessary.