SOCI 4003: Social Statistics
Fall 2016

Class Information: Online
Instructor: Dr. Winston Tripp
Office: 205-A Pafford
Email: Email through CourseDen
Office Hours:
   Monday: 12:00-3:00 P.M.
   Wednesday: 10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
   Online: M-Th; 9:00 A.M.-10:00 A.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, access the
class frequently, keep up with the assigned material, and practice. I cannot emphasize
this last point enough. Each 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.

Since this is a 100% online course, you will need to be very good at structuring your own
time and keeping yourself on track. This means that you need to make sure to do all of
the things that you would do in a regular class: obtain the textbook quickly, practice the
problems, put in the time reading the material, and demonstrating that you have
mastered the material.

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.

Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics: Using Microsoft Excel

Note that there are several versions of this textbook that use other software programs
and older editions as well. It is very important that you obtain this version that uses
Microsoft Excel, since your analysis projects use skills learned directly from the text.
Your success in the course will depend heavily on having and using this text.

You can purchase your rent your book from any source you choose, but make sure to do
it very quickly. The UWG Bookstore may run out of copies and it can take a while to get
more in stock. If you purchase a book online it may take several weeks for your copy to
arrive. However you decide to get your book, make sure to plan for these issues because
you will not be allowed to take a quiz late because you don’t have a book. The first week is an introductory week but after that you are expected to have a book in your possession.

**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 weekly quizzes, weekly discussion boards, and an analysis paper. There is generally a quiz and a discussion post due each week. See each weekly for specific guidelines and exceptions.

Grades will be assigned as follows.

90-100% = A  
80-89.9% = B  
70-79.9% = C  
60-69.9% = D  
0-59.9% = F

Note that I DO NOT round your final grade.

No work will be accepted for any reason after the end of the regular semester on December 2nd.

**Grading Structure (total possible percentage points for the course)**  
Quizzes (Top 12 of 14 total)  
Discussion Posts (Top 4 of 6 total)  
Analysis Projects (3 total)
1. **Quizzes (4% each), due each Friday by 5:00 P.M.**
   There will be a quiz every week of the semester (beginning after the initial welcome week), covering the assigned material up to that point. I count your top 12 of the 14 quizzes and each quiz is worth 4% of the final grade (48% total). Since two quizzes are dropped, you are not able to make up any quizzes.

2. **Discussion Boards (3% each), due on Fridays by 5:00 P.M. as assigned.**
   There will be five total discussion board posts due during several weeks of the semester (see the tentative schedule for specific weeks), covering the assigned material up to that point. I count your top 4 of the 5 posts and each post is worth 3% of the final grade (12% total). Since one post is dropped, you are not able to make up any posts.

   Each of these posts is essentially a short essay assignment each week that is designed to test your comprehension of the material for the week. Note that this is not a statement of your opinion on a topic. There will be question prompts designed to make you think about how to apply the concepts you have been learning in the class. Unlike typical discussion board assignments you may have seen in other courses (which are often very informal), the purpose of this assignment is to get you to apply higher-order knowledge to complex problems, not just regurgitate definitions. Make sure to take these very seriously.

3. **Analysis Projects due on Fridays by 5:00 P.M. as assigned.**
   There are three main analysis projects for this course (the first is worth 10% of your final grade and the second and third are worth 15%). Each is designed to give you an opportunity to answer a research question using actual data. This is your opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of the topics. You will be expected to actually apply the concepts, rather than just reciting a definition or making a calculation. All of the other assignments are designed to support writing this paper. It is to be submitted to the correct CourseDen dropbox using the proper format. You are responsible for making sure that you have reliable access to CourseDen and for making sure you upload your paper in the proper format. This means that unless I receive explicit notification from the University that CourseDen was unavailable during the period of time when the assignment is due, I will not accept work that is emailed to me, or if it is late, or if it is in the wrong format. Make sure you plan ahead. Suddenly losing internet access five minutes before the deadline is not an acceptable excuse. Neither is a slow internet connection due to everyone else trying to upload their files. Files submitted (even accidently) as any other format, such as a .lnk file, will not be accepted. Also, note that I will check thoroughly for plagiarism.

**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 also need to obtain access to Microsoft Excel.

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.

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 keeping track of changes in the course syllabus made by the instructor throughout the semester.

2. 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.

3. Students are expected to log on to CourseDen daily (with the exception of holidays and weekends), to be aware of any announcements, meet all deadlines, and ensure that they have access to CourseDen regularly.

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