THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(soci.ucalgary.ca)

SOCIOLOGY 315-01 (Introductory Social Statistics II)

Course Outline, Fall 2013

Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME

This course makes use of Blackboard to communicate information to students. To access Blackboard, go to: blackboard.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

Instructor: Tom Langford   Office: SS 924   langford@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays on any day that we have a lecture, 2:00 to 2:30 p.m.; or by appointment (please email a request).
Email guidelines: Please use email to inform me of something important (e.g., you are sick and will be missing the mid-term test), to ask a question that I can answer with a simple Yes or No (e.g., Is the confidence interval for proportions covered on the mid-term test?) or to book an appointment outside of the scheduled times for office hours. For more complicated questions and discussions, please speak to me in person.

Teaching Assistant: Alicia Polachek
Contact information and office hours for Alicia will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

        This is the second of two introductory courses on the basic statistical logic and techniques that are employed in quantitative social research. It focuses on (1) inferential statistical logic and techniques; and (2) basic techniques for multivariate descriptive statistics, with an emphasis on multiple regression analysis. The instructor assumes that students are familiar with the descriptive statistics for one and two variables that are covered in the prerequisite course, SOCI 311. Students will learn the material through lectures, readings, problem solving and participation in laboratory sessions. A major objective of the labs is to increase students' proficiency when analyzing sociological data using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

        In general, students should be able to deal with the material in this course if they attend all lectures and labs, approach the readings systematically, complete assigned problems every week, and are sure to ask questions on any points which puzzle them. Students will find that the material in this course gets progressively more difficult throughout the term. Consequently, it is imperative that you do not fall behind in your work.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Healey, Joseph F. and Steven G. Prus. 2010. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*, First Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson Education. [The Second Canadian Edition can also be used if you can't locate a used copy of the First Canadian Edition.]

Allison, Paul D. 1999, *Multiple Regression: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

LAB PRINTING FEE

Students will be charged a lab fee of $15 that will cover the cost of all laser printing undertaken in the lab period (Wednesday from 15:00 to 17:50). This lab fee is mandatory and must be paid to the teaching assistant no later than Monday 23 September. Students who fail to pay the lab fee will not be allowed to use computers in the Arts Computer Lab to complete their lab work.

STUDENT EVALUATION

(1) **Three Assignments**
    (A) <u>Due Dates</u>: Assignments are due on:

1. Monday 30 September at 13:00 sharp at the beginning of class.
2. Monday 04 November at 13:00 sharp at the beginning of class.
3. Monday 02 December at 13:00 sharp at the beginning of class.

    (B) <u>Working Time</u>: At least 10 days.
    (C) <u>Value</u>: .... 21% (each valued at 7%)

(2) **Mid-Term Test # 1**
    (A) <u>Time</u>: Wednesday 9 October, 15:00 to 17:30
    (B) <u>Content</u>: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to 9 October
    (C) <u>Value</u>: .... 15% or 25%, whichever is most favourable to you

(3) **Mid-Term Test # 2**
    (A) <u>Time</u>: Wednesday 13 November, 15:00 to 17:30
    (B) <u>Content</u>: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to 13 November
    (C) <u>Value</u>: .... 15% or 25%, whichever is most favourable to you

(4) **Computer Quiz**
    (A) <u>Time</u>: Wednesday 04 December, 15:00 to 16:00
    (B) <u>Location</u>: Arts Faculty Computer Lab
    (C) <u>Content</u>: All computer work covered in labs between 11 September and 27 November
    (C) <u>Value</u>: 4%

(5) **Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination**
    (A) <u>Time</u>: To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Please do not make plans to leave Calgary for the holidays until after the Registrar's exam schedule is released. No requests to write the final examination in a special time slot will be entertained.
    (B) <u>Content</u>: The final examination is cumulative. You will be tested on all readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises from the beginning of the course until the end.
    (C) <u>Value</u>: .... 25%, 35% or 45%, whichever is most favourable to you

LETTER GRADE ASSIGNMENT

At the end of the course numerical marks are totalled and a final letter grade is assigned on the following basis:

Percentage Range	Letter Grade
49 or less	F
50-53	D
54-58	D^+
59-62	C-
63-66	C
67-71	C^+
72-75	B-
76-79	B
80-84	B^+
85-89	A-
90-94	A
95 or higher	A^+

IMPORTANT NOTES

(1) Late Penalty. Except in the cases of documented illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to a teaching assistant's attention before the due date of an assignment, a penalty of 25% of the assigned mark per day (prorated for part days) will be assessed any late work.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write a mid-term test must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. At his discretion, the instructor will transfer the percentage weight to another component of the course, or set a make-up test. Make-up tests must be written as soon as possible at a scheduled Department of Sociology make-up test session, held on Tuesday evenings starting at 5 p.m.

(3) How to arrange for deferred work at the end of a term.

Deferred Final Exam Form

Please note that requests to defer a Registrar-scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:
http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It's available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf
Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

(4) The quality of a student's writing is a factor in the evaluation of a student's work in this course.

(5) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge" (*Calendar 2013-14*, p. 52). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating (see pp. 52-55 of the *Calendar*).

(6) Handing in assignments outside of class, return of tests and assignments, and release of final grades.

1. When students are unable to submit assignments in class, they should make arrangements to hand in the assignments directly to the teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Assignments and mid-terms will not be returned through the main Sociology

Department office. The Freedom of Information and Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place (i.e. outside an instructor's office, the department office etc.). Students who want any of their work returned by mail must supply a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the instructor. Otherwise unclaimed assignments will be available for pick-up only from the instructor's office by appointment.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.

(7) Ethics of Research**:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects -- including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation -- must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

(8) Academic Accommodation
Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with Student Accessibility Services (MSC 452, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with Student Accessibility Services and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

(9) The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

(10) *Emergency evacuations.* In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of our classroom (PF 118), please proceed to the assembly point in the Education Block - Food Court (alternate is Scurfield Hall - Atrium).

(11) **Student Representation**. The 2013-14 Students' Union VP Academic is Emily Macphail; email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role

ASSIGNED READINGS

It is recommended that you skim an assigned reading prior to the lecture(s) when it is covered, and read it in detail shortly after the lecture. The "due dates" for assigned readings will be added on Blackboard as we go through the course. Note that all page numbers for Healey and Prus are for the FIRST Canadian Edition. If you are working with the Second Canadian Edition, please let me know and I will post on Blackboard the corresponding page numbers for that edition.

(1) Healey and Prus, Chapter 6, pp. 153-170.
(2) Healey and Prus, Chapter 7, pp. 175-190 and 192-199 (skip section 7.9 "Determining Sample Size").
(3) Healey and Prus, Chapter 8, pp. 209-236 (skip section 8.8 at the end of the chapter).
** Note. The null hypothesis on p. 225 is incorrect. See if you can come up with the correction.
(4) Healey and Prus, Chapter 9, sections 9.1 to 9.3 only (pp. 246-254).
(5) Healey and Prus, Chapter 9, sections 9.4 to 9.7 (pp. 255-264).
(6) Healey and Prus, Chapter 10, pp. 275-280 and 283-289 (skip sections 10.4 and 10.5).
(7) Healey and Prus, Chapter 11, pp. 299-319 (skip section 11.7)
(8) Healey and Prus, Chapter 13, section 13.2 only (pp. 358-362)
(9) Healey and Prus, Chapter 16, pp. 447-464 (but skip section 16.4 on partial gamma)
(10) Paul Allison, Chapter 5, "How Does Bivariate Regression Work?" pp. 97-115.
(11) Paul Allison, Preface and Chapter 1, "What is Multiple Regression?"
(12) Paul Allison, Chapter 2, "How Do I Interpret Multiple Regression Results?" and Chapter 3, "What Can Go Wrong With Multiple Regression?"
(13) Paul Allison, section 6.6, "What is Homoscedasticity," pp. 125-128.
(14) Paul Allison, "Chapter Highlights" at the end of Chapter 7, pp. 149-150.
(15) Paul Allison, section 8.6, "What is Interaction?" pp. 166-169.