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

## SOCIOLOGY 315-02  (Introductory Social Statistics II)

## Course Outline, Winter 2019

## Safewalk/Campus Security: 220-5333, ANYTIME (Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus)

This course makes use of Desire2Learn to communicate information to students. To access D2L go to: d2I.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca

**Instructor**: Tom Langford     Office: SS 1006          langford@ucalgary.ca
**Office Hours**: Tuesdays 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., or by appointment (please email a request). NOTE that the office hour is **cancelled** on Tuesday 19 February due to the Term Break.

**Lectures**: T/R from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in SA 104
**Lab**: R from 15:30 to 18:15 p.m., usually in the AFCL, but we also have ENE 239 booked for the mid-term tests.

**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 Assistants:** Jie Miao, Chanin Seeger and Brody Trottier.
Your main opportunity to consult with the teaching assistants is our Thursday lab period, 15:30 to 18:15. All three TAs will remain in the lab right until 18:15 as long as there are any students who wish to consult with them. The teaching assistants will also schedule "drop in" office hours in the days prior to the due date of each assignment. The scheduling of these office hours will be posted on D2L.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the second of two introductory courses on the basic statistical logic and techniques that are employed in quantitative social research using data from survey research.  It reviews: (A) inferential statistical logic and techniques; and (B) correlation and simple linear regression. It then covers (C) multivariate cross-tabulation analysis; (D) multivariate analysis of means; (E) multiple regression analysis; (F) dummy variable regression (in which nominal-level explanatory variables are included in a regression model through the creation of dummy variables); (G) the whys and wherefores for the multiple indicator measurement of concepts, including checks for measurement reliability and validity; (H) testing whether two explanatory variables statistically interact in affecting a dependent variable, and if they do, how to interpret the statistical interaction (this topic applies to multivariate cross-tabulation analysis, multivariate analysis of means, and multiple regression analysis); (I) using path analysis to distinguish indirect causal effects from direct causal effects; (J) understanding the assumptions that are made when undertaking multiple regression analysis in an explanatory framework; (K) how to undertake diagnostic checks for the violation of particular technical assumptions in multiple regression analysis; and (L) understanding published research that reports the results from a 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, and have been introduced to inferential statistical logic and techniques.  Students will learn the material in SOCI 315 through lectures, readings, problem solving, participation in laboratory sessions, completion of assignments and studying for tests.  A major objective of the labs is to increase students' proficiency when analyzing sociological data using statistical software. We will use SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) in this course. It is available in the AFCL and you are also able to download a copy to use on your personal computer (because the University of Calgary has a license for academic users).

In general, students should be able to deal with the material in this course if they attend **all** lectures and labs, pay attention and engage with the material during lectures, approach the readings systematically, review lecture material and complete assigned problems every week, carefully and thoroughly complete the assignments on time, 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.

CLASSROOM DECORUM

We should all conduct ourselves in ways that are respectful of everyone else in our learning environment. How this general principle applies to coming to class late, using electronic devices during lectures, chit chatting with the person next to you, attempting to multitask during lectures, etc., will be discussed at our first class and whenever needed throughout the term. As the lecturer, I will let you know (often right on the spot) if something you are doing disrupts my concentration. In addition, since you should be paying attention to lecture material at all times, I will not hesitate to ask you a question coming out of the flow of the lecture, whether you seem to be paying attention or not! Always be prepared to participate since you never know when I will call upon you.

REQUIRED READING MATERIALS

(1) Allison, Paul D. 1999, *Multiple Regression: A Primer*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press. [Available in the bookstore.]

(2) Langford, Tom. *Handouts for SOCI 315 Lectures*. [This booklet of handouts will be provided at the beginning of the term. You should bring the booklet to each and every class and lab period. The pdf of the booklet will be posted on D2L.]

ASSIGNED READINGS
The list of assigned readings will be posted separately on D2L.

STUDENT EVALUATION

(1) **Three Assignments**
      (A) Due Dates: Assignments are due on:
1. Tuesday 29 January at 12:30 at the beginning of class.
2. Tuesday 5 March at 12:30 at the beginning of class.
3. Tuesday 2 April at 12:30 at the beginning of class.
      (B) Working Time: a minimum of two weeks, including two lab sessions
      (C) Value: …………………………….  15% (each valued at 5%)

(2) **Mid-Term Test # 1**
      (A) Time: Thursday 7 February, 15:30 to 18:00
      (B) Content: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to 7 February. This test is 'closed book' although statistical formulae and tables will be provided along with the test. Stand-alone calculators are permitted, but not those on phones.
      (C) Value: …………………………….20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.

(3) **Mid-Term Test # 2**
      (A) Time: Thursday 14 March, 15:30 to 18:00
      (B) Content: All readings, lectures, lab material, assignments and exercises up to 14 March, with an emphasis on material covered after the first mid-term test. This test is

'closed book' although statistical formulae and tables will be provided along with the test. Stand-alone calculators are permitted, but not those on phones.

  (C) <u>Value</u>: ................................. 20% or 30%, whichever is most favourable to you.


### (4) Computer Quiz

  (A) <u>Time</u>:  Thursday 11 April, 15:30 to 16:30

  (B) <u>Location</u>: Arts Faculty Computer Lab

  (C) <u>Content</u>: All computer work covered in labs between 10 January and 11 April. This computer quiz is 'open book.'

  (D) <u>Value</u>: .............................................. 5%


### (5) Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination

  (A) <u>Time</u>: To be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. Please do not make travel plans in April 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, exercises and test questions from the beginning of the course until the end, with an emphasis on material covered after the second mid-term test. The final examination is 'closed book' although statistical formulae and tables will be provided along with the test. Stand-alone calculators are permitted, but not those on phones.

  (C) <u>Value</u>: ......................... 30%

## GRADING SCALE

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

| Grade | Percent range | Grade Point Value | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| A+ | 95 – 100% | 4.0 | Outstanding performance |
| A | 90 – 94% | 4.0 | Excellent-superior performance |
| A- | 85 – 89% | 3.7 | |
| B+ | 80 – 84% | 3.3 | |
| B | 75 – 79% | 3.0 | Good – clearly above average performance |
| B- | 70 – 74% | 2.7 | |
| C+ | 67 – 69% | 2.3 | |
| C | 63 – 66% | 2.0 | Satisfactory - basic understanding |
| C- | 59 – 62% | 1.7 | |
| D+ | 55 – 58% | 1.3 | |
| D | 50 – 54% | 1.0 | Minimal pass - marginal performance |
| F | <50% | 0 | unsatisfactory performance |

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

## IMPORTANT NOTES

(1) <u>Late Penalty</u>. Except in the cases of illness, or extenuating circumstances brought to a teaching assistant's attention **prior to the due date of an assignment**, a penalty of 10% of the assigned mark per day will be assessed on late assignments.

(2) A student who has a legitimate reason for being unable to write a scheduled 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. **In almost all cases the instructor will 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.

(3) All requests for deferral of a mid-term test or an extension on an assignment due to health reasons must be accompanied by the written documentation required by the university -- either a statutory declaration with one of the Commissioners for Oaths on campus, or a medical note. Please note that travel arrangements, holiday plans, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not normally valid reasons for requesting a deferral or an extension. However in the case of exceptional circumstances the

instructor will entertain requests for a deferral or an extension. Please contact him as early as possible to discuss such circumstances.

**(4) <u>How to arrange for deferred work at the end of a term.</u>**

**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:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms

**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
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms
Once an extension date for deferred term work has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Arts Students' Centre (SS 102) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).


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

**(6) "Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge"** (see section K.4 of the Academic Regulations in the 2018-19 *Calendar*, found on the U. of C. website). Please review the University of Calgary's policies for dealing with student misconduct, particularly plagiarism and cheating, found in section K.5 of the Academic Regulations in the *Calendar*.

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

1.  Please note that you are required to submit an electronic copy of your computer output for assignments through the Dropbox in D2L, although a paper copy of your written answers on assignment questions must be submitted in class. Please do not submit your assignment answers to the main Sociology Department office. If you miss handing in your assignment at class, please follow the posted instructions on D2L for handing it in. Indeed the Sociology Department main office does not accept any paper submissions from students.

2.  Assignments and mid-term tests 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.). Marked copies of assignments and mid-term tests will be returned in class or lab. If you miss picking up your marked assignment or test at class, please follow the posted instructions on D2L for picking it up.

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

**(8) 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 Faculty 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.

**(9) Academic Accommodation**
Students who require academic accommodation because of a disability or health condition need to register with Student Accessibility Services (MSC 452, telephone 220-8237) in accordance with the Student Accommodation Policy found at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

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.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability or health condition should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the instructor.

**(10)** *Emergency evacuations.* In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of our classrooms, please proceed to the following emergency assembly points:
For our regular classroom (SA 104) -- assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court
For our computer lab (AFCL) -- assemble at the Professional Faculties Food Court
For our lab classroom, ENE 239 -- assemble at the MSC North Courtyard
You can check the emergency assembly point locations for all of your classes at:
http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

**(11) Student Representation.** The 2018-19 Students' Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link:
https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact.

**(12) Safewalk.** The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-53333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

**(13) Student Resources links**

SU Wellness Centre
Campus Mental Health Strategy