

# SOCI 311: Introductory Statistics I

The University of Calgary, Faculty of Arts, Department of Sociology  
Course Outline, Fall Semester, 2015

<p><b>Instructor</b> Alex Bierman, Ph.D. <b>Office:</b> SS 902 <b>Phone:</b> 403-220-6226 <b>E-mail:</b> aebierma@ucalgary.ca <b>Office Hours:</b> Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays 11:00 am – noon or by appointment. Please note that I will often be available Thursday afternoons as well.</p> <p><b>Skype Office Hours</b> Wednesdays and Fridays I may also be available through Skype. Please email me for an appointment.</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Teaching Assistants</b> Tiffany Doherty <b>E-mail:</b> tldohert@ucalgary.ca <b>Office:</b> SS 945 <b>Office Hours:</b> Monday, 11:30 am-1:00 pm</p> <p>Miranda MacCallum <b>E-mail:</b> mmaccall@ucalgary.ca <b>Office:</b> SS 945 <b>Office Hours:</b> Monday, 10:00 am to 11:30 am.</p> <p>Ana Litviniuc <b>E-mail:</b> alitvini@ucalgary.ca <b>Office:</b> SS 943 <b>Office Hours:</b> Monday, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm.</p>	<p><b>Lecture Schedule:</b> 9:30 am - 10:45 am Tuesdays and Thursdays MFH 160</p> <p><b>Lab Schedule:</b> 3:30 pm - 6:20 pm, Thursdays Tri-Faculties Lab or AD 140</p> <p>On non-exam days, labs will typically be held in the Tri- Faculties Lab.</p> <p>Mid-terms will usually be administered during lab hours, in which case they will be in AD 140. Please note that this room may be moved to one more conducive to taking exams.</p> <p><b>Final:</b> Registrar scheduled</p>
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## Required Text

Levin, Jack and James A. Fox. 2011. *Elementary Statistics in Social Research: The Essentials, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

## Recommended Text

Longest, Kyle C. 2014. *Using Stata for Quantitative Analysis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

## Course Description

Elementary descriptive and inferential statistics covered include: Levels of measurement of variables; construction and percentaging of bivariate contingency tables; graphic presentations; measures of central tendency and dispersion; probability; parametric and nonparametric distributions; point and interval estimates; hypothesis testing; two-sample difference of means; ANOVA; correlation; regression.

## Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should have knowledge and understanding of the basic means of describing survey data, as well as how sociologists can use survey data to extrapolate to a population. This includes being able to identify levels of measurement, describing patterns of central tendency and dispersion within measures, estimating confidence intervals, and choosing the correct statistical procedure to answer a research question involving one variable or a relationship between two variables. Students should be able to use Stata to describe distributions of categorical and continuous variables, as well as relationships between categorical or continuous measures, including confidence intervals and appropriate hypothesis testing. Students should also be able to use Stata to recode survey data and analyze variables for missing responses. This course is intended to provide students with the statistical skills to 1) prepare them for more advanced courses (including SOCI 315) and 2) facilitate reading and understanding of the wider sociological literature.

## Grading System

A+ = 95 and over	B+ = 80-84.9999	C+ = 67-71.9999	D+ = 54-58.9999
A = 90-94.9999	B = 76-79.9999	C = 63-66.9999	D = 50-53.9999
A- = 85-89.9999	B- = 72-75.9999	C- = 59-62.9999	F = 49.9999 and lower

## Grade Distribution

Labs	25%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Final Exam ( <b>Cumulative</b> )	30%

If an opportunity for extra credit arises, this opportunity will be given to the class as a whole. Individual opportunities for extra credit or to make up points lost due to errors on an exam will not be allowed. Consistent with departmental policy, class grades may be adjusted to keep with departmental norms.

## Staying in Contact

Class announcements may occasionally be sent out over e-mail, so you'll need to make sure that the university has your correct e-mail address and that your e-mail account is in working order. We are happy to meet with students, but except for cases in which we have instructed you to email something, we prefer that you contact us by email for administrative purposes only. For instance, you may email us to schedule an appointment outside of office hours. When e-mailing, please put "SOVI 311" in the subject line of your e-mail. We will make every effort to reply to your e-mails within 24 hours, but it may take up to 24 hours to respond.

## Lecture notes

I will post PowerPoint slides on D2L for most of the class lectures, and you should print out these slides and bring them to class or have them available on an electronic device capable of note-taking. You will still need to take notes, even if you have the PowerPoint slides. There are no lecture notes besides the PowerPoint slides, so if you miss class you'll need to get the additional lecture notes from another student.

## Labs

Labs will serve two purposes. First, this will be your opportunity to attempt questions of the type you will see on the exams, but with the instructor and TAs available to help you. In addition, you will learn and apply the Stata computer program to analyze data using the statistics being covered in class. The lab is designed to be finished and turned in within the time allotted for lab. Labs should be turned in through the appropriate folder on D2L. However, lab may be turned in by the following Tuesday, at 9:30 am, without penalty. This due date/time will allow us to have the lab graded by the following lab. If you do not turn in the lab by this date and time, the D2L folder will close and you will need to email your assignment directly to **Dr. Bierman**, in which case grade penalties for labs will apply (if the lab does not meet departmental policies for deferrals). In the case of a late lab, 50% will be deducted from the lab before any marks are deducted for errors. Please note that it is possible that concepts covered in lab may appear on exams. You should plan to attend both the lab and the lecture, and are responsible in all exams for any material presented in either lecture or lab.

## Exams

Only the final exam will be expressly cumulative, but all exams may be indirectly cumulative because they are likely to build on previous material. You will be permitted one 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet (front and back) of notes during each exam. Exams may include a mixture of True/False, multiple choice, short answer, and calculation problems. Exam dates are October 8<sup>th</sup> for exam 1 and November 5<sup>th</sup> for exam 2. Please note that these exam dates are *tentative*, and I will confirm the dates at least a week before the respective exam.

Exams will be administered during your lab periods. The class will typically have two hours to take an exam. If you arrive late for the exam, you will only have the amount of time remaining allotted for the exam. For instance, if you show up half an hour after an exam is handed out, you will have only 90 minutes to take the exam. Once you begin an exam, it is your performance

during the allotted time which will be used to determine your grade. You will not be allowed to retake the exam, sections of the exam, or complete at a later date problems you may not have answered. You also will not be allowed to take alternative sections of an exam or an alternative exam and substitute or combine your performance on the exam with alternative grades. If you believe that you may have an emergency which will interfere with your performance on the exam, or you arrive late because of an emergency, you need to talk to me about it before you take the exam. Once you begin the exam, it is your performance on that exam, during the time allotted for the exam, which will determine your grade. The only exception to this policy is if you must be hospitalized while you are taking the exam.

You will need a calculator for all exams. Your calculator must have exponent (square) and square root functions. Some calculators can have some unusual displays or function keys, so it's a good idea to make sure you can work your calculator before an exam. You cannot use a calculator on your phone, but you may use one on a laptop or tablet, provided that you demonstrate that the device is in airplane mode.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the faculty for adjudication and possible punishment. Using work which is not your own is academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty of this type includes: Having someone else do work and claiming the work as your own, or copying other students' work. Other types of academic dishonesty include gaining access to materials before they are given. This is not an exhaustive list of activities which may fall under the category of academic dishonesty. If you are not sure whether an action would be academic dishonesty, please ask Dr. Bierman before you take this action.

### **Grade Reappraisals**

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. Please note that it is Dr. Bierman, not a TA, who is responsible for all grade reappraisals.

### **Handing in Papers, Assignments**

- The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
- **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
- Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

### **Ethics 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.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

### **Deferrals**

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

**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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

### **Student Representation**

The 2015-16 Students’ Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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>

### **Emergency Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at Education Block - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **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 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the “Help” phones located around Campus.

### **Academic Accommodation**

- Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone 403-220-8237) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-foraccommodations-for-students-with->

[disabilities\\_0.pdf](#). Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.