

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**SOCIOLOGY 315: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL STATISTICS II
WINTER 2008**

Instructor: Roland Simon	Teaching assistants:
Office: 902	Kerri Lovell
Phone: 220-6226	Office: SS941
Office Hours: T 11-12, R 11-12	Email: klovell@ucalgary.ca
Email: roland.simon@gmail.com	Andrea Quinlan
	Office: SS919
	Email: agquinla@ucalgary.ca

Please use email for administrative concerns only. Substantive issues should be addressed in person, either in class, lab, or during office hours.

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45 **Location:** ST 133
Lab: Wednesday 3:30-6:20 **Location:** SB 105, Tri-Faculties lab

Course overview:

This course expands on the material learned in Sociology 311. 311 introduced students to the essentials of organizing data, descriptive statistics for one and two variables, measures of association, and bivariate linear regression. Sociology 315 will begin with a brief review of these concepts from 311 before introducing new material. Students for whom it has been some time since they took 311 may need to put in some extra work to get up to speed. This course will then move into descriptive statistics for 3 or more variables, and some more advanced regression techniques. We will then introduce inferential statistics, to make the move from samples to populations.

This course has a reputation as a “nightmare” course for many sociology students. After all, many students go into social sciences because they don’t enjoy math. This is not a math class! The focus in this class is on interpreting the results of quantitative research. I am not interested in having students memorize equations or spit out stock answers by rote. Rather, the goal is for students to learn the tools and techniques that allow us to make sense of the social world.

That being said, this course does require some effort. Students are expected to attend lectures and labs, and keep up on readings. Lecture notes will not be made available to students, so if you need to miss a class you will need to get notes from a classmate.

Required texts:

Allison, Paul D. 1999. Multiple Regression: A Primer. Pine Forge Press.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, and Anna Leon-Guerrero. 2006. Social Statistics for a Diverse Society. 4th Edition. Pine Forge Press. Includes CD-ROM with SPSS Student Version 13.0.

Both books are available at the bookstore. These are the same books that are used in Sociology 311, so if you took that class recently you should be fine.

Evaluation:

Midterm 1: 20%. February 13. This exam will cover the review material, and correlation and regression.

Midterm 2: 20%. March 19. Finishing regression, including path analysis and dummy variables; probability; inferential stats.

Lab Assignments (5): 5% each, 25% total.

Lab quiz: 10%. In lab, on the last day of lab.

Final exam (registrar scheduled): 25%. This will primarily cover the remaining course material, including finishing inferential stats. However, there will be some coverage of material from throughout the course.

Note that to pass this course you must hand in all assignments. You must also pass the final exam to pass the course.

Grade breakdown:

Letter Grade	% Range
A+	95 - 100
A	90 - 94
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	76-79
B-	72-75
C+	67-71
C	63-66
C-	59-62
D+	54-58
F	49 and less

Important Notes/Regulations:

1. In order to pass this course, all lab assignments must be completed, handed in and graded and the lab quiz must be completed. There is a penalty of 10% per day for late assignments.

2. A student seeking reappraisal of graded exams or lab exercises must discuss this work with the instructor within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is handed back. Please note that for lab assignments, you must first consult with your lab instructor. Consistent with Faculty of Social Sciences regulations, the entire exam or assignment will be remarked and the mark may be raised, lowered or remain the same.
3. A student who is unable to write a midterm exam due to circumstances of illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction that is fully documented will have the weight of that examination applied to the final exam. No make-up exams will be given.
4. Hand-held calculators are allowed in classes, labs and tests.

Course schedule

This may be subject to change as necessary.

Week 1 (January 14): Course introduction, review of 311.
(Text Chs 1-7, 9)

Week 2 (January 21): Finish review, correlation (Text Ch.8
Lab Assignment 1

Week 3 (January 28): Regression (Allison Chs.1,2,4,5; Text Ch.8)

Week 4 (February 4): Regression (Allison Chs. 1,2,4,5; Text Ch.8)
Lab Assignment 2

Week 5 (February 11): Review, Midterm 1(in lab time)

Week 6 (February 18): Reading week, sleeping in.

Week 7 (February 25): Path analysis, dummy variable regression
(Allison Ch. 9)
Lab Assignment 3

Week 8 (March 3): Probability (Text Chs. 9,10)

Week 9 (March 10): Inferential stats (Text Chs.9-12)
Lab Assignment 4

Week 10 (March 17): Review, Midterm 2 (in lab time)

Week 11 (March 24): Inferential stats (Text Chs.9-12)

Week 12 (March 31): Inferential stats (Text Chs.9-12)
Lab Assignment 5

Week 13 (April 7): ANOVA, Lab quiz. (Text Chs.13-14)

Week 14 (April 15): Review, catch up. (Text Chs.13-14)

Additional Information:

A. FOIP:

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's 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.

B. Academic Accommodation:

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, 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 the student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

C. Plagiarism:

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the 2007-2008 University of Calgary Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with plagiarism, cheating, and other academic misconduct.

(http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/2007/how/How_LB.htm)

D. Safewalk:

The University of Calgary provides a safewalk 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.

E. Sociology Web Page:

<http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

F. USRI:

At the completion of this course each student will be asked to complete an online Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) form.

G. Research Ethics:

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.