

Socio822
Introduction to Social Analysis
Kansas State University
Fall 2008

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Office Hours TU 11:00-12:00

SYLLABUS

Course Description

Quantitative methodology represents an important set of research methods by which knowledge about human behavior is established in the social sciences. This course provides an introduction to quantitative methods and statistical techniques utilized in social science research, including managing and analyzing social science data. The course is especially designed for the first-year or returning graduate student and/or students who wish to refresh the fundamental concepts of statistical methods and analysis. This course acquaints the student with SPSS statistical software, techniques that employers increasingly require of candidates. In addition, students develop the ability to critically evaluate the use of these methods in research conducted by others.

Required Texts:

- Healey, Joseph F. 2009. *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research*. 8th Edition. Wadsworth. (ISBN: 0495662097)
- Liebetrau, Albert M. 1983. *Measures of Association*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage. (ISBN: 9780803919747)
- Lewis-Beck, Michael S. 1980. *Applied Regression: An Introduction*. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage. (ISBN: 9780803914940)
- Reynolds, H.T. 1984. *Analysis of Nominal Data*. 2nd Edition. Beverly Hills, CA: Sage. (ISBN: 9780803906532)

Optional Texts:

- Kirkpatrick, Lee A., and Feeney, Brooke C. 2009. *A Simple Guide to SPSS for Version 16.0*. 9th Edition. Wadsworth. (ISBN: 049559766X)
- Salkind, Neil J. 2007. *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics*. 3rd Edition. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage. (ISBN: 9781412951500)

Goal

The goal of this course is to introduce the beginning or continuing graduate student to quantitative methodology in social science research and to support the student in constructing a research project.

Objectives

- Review the basic use of quantitative methods and social statistics in social science research;
- Reinforce the connection between social theory and social science research through the use of statistical techniques;
- Instruct the student in: descriptive and inferential statistics, nonparametric methods of analyzing data, and introductory parametric procedures;
- Provide hands-on experience in designing, executing, and analyzing a research project;
- Familiarize students with contemporary applications and critiques of statistics and charts/graphs.

Class Format

Students are expected to read and prepare exercises before the weekly class meeting, as scheduled in the Course Outline. Typically, students will present completed work that demonstrates material learned, then the instructor will summarize and present material and techniques to work on during the following week. During the course of the semester, students will design and conduct a research project, and results will be presented at the end of the semester.

Evaluation

Final grades will be based on weekly exercises, quizzes, and class participation (25%), two mini-reports (10%); four exams (40%), and a course project (25%). Various components will be assigned points, based on a 1000-point system. 900-1000 points earns an "A" in the course; 800-899 points a "B"; 700-799 points a "C".

Weekly assignments.....	150
10 weekly quizzes @ 10	100
Mini-Reports: Applying Statistics	100
Exam I	50

Exam II.....	100
Exam III.....	100
Exam IV	150
Semester project	
Proposal.....	50
Paper.....	100
Presentation.....	100

Semester Project

The project will include identifying a secondary data source, proposing a research question, and analyzing data. The project will culminate in a paper and presentation due at the end of the semester.

Course Handouts/Website:

It is your responsibility to check K-State Online for announcements and information pertinent to class and class assignments. Grades will be recorded through K-State Online.

Class attendance. At this level of your academic career, students are expected to attend all classes, without exception. If a true emergency arises, you should notify me as soon as possible.

Incompletes. A grade of incomplete will be considered only under very extraordinary circumstances; an expected incomplete must be arranged prior to the end of the semester. In no case will an incomplete be given to a student who simply fails to attend class and complete assignments.

Honor Code. Please write the KSU honor code on every written assignment, along with your signature. The KSU honor code states: "On my honor as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the University. Plagiarism includes using someone else's words or ideas and claiming them as your own, as well as failing to acknowledge indebtedness for the use of others' works or ideas, published or unpublished, even if the work is paraphrased. For more information, refer to the "Academic Dishonesty" policy:

<http://www.ksu.edu/academicsservices/fhbook/fhxf.html>

Student rights. Refer to information regarding your rights and responsibilities in the graduate general catalog: <http://courses.ksu.edu/catalog/graduate/>. If you have any condition that will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, and/or require special accommodations, please notify me during the first two days of class.

Office hours, conferences, and communication. I hold regular office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 to 12:00. This is a time when you can drop in to talk about whatever you want — questions you have about the material, how you're doing in the course, things that you find particularly interesting (or irritating). Please don't hesitate to use this time. Ultimately, it's better for both of us if I know early about any difficulties that you may be having in the course. I (like most instructors) have little patience for 11th-hour pleas for mercy, but if we can work together on a problem, I am more than willing to do that. Any meetings outside of this designated time should be arranged by scheduling an appointment. I also encourage e-mail communication.

Borderline grades, curves, and other grade inflators. Grades for this course will not be curved. Results of individual grades and assignments may be discussed during office hours.

Notice of nondiscrimination. Kansas State University is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or other nonmerit reasons, in admissions, educational programs or activities, and employment (including employment of disabled veterans and veterans of the Vietnam Era), all as required by applicable laws and regulations. Responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries, including those concerning Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, has been delegated to Jane D. Rowlett, Ph.D., Director of Unclassified Affairs and University Compliance, Kansas State University, 225 Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506-0124 (785-532-4392).

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Course Outline

Exercises are scheduled each class period for the upcoming week's assignment. In general, assignments are to be typewritten and/or produced through the statistical software. For example, August 27 I will distribute exercises for Ch. 2; they will be due for the class scheduled August 30.

- Week 1 August 27
Introduction; Ch. 1, Healey
Quiz 1
Mini Report: Example "Capital Punishment and Deterrence"
- Week 2 September 3
Basic Descriptive Statistics, Ch. 2, Healey
Quiz 2
Mini Report: "The Worst Social Statistic Ever" & "Soft Facts"
Mini Report: "Mutant Statistics"
Mini Report: "Apples and Oranges"
- Week 3 September 10
Measures of Central Tendency; Dispersion, Ch. 3, 4, Healey
Quiz 3
Mini Report: "Missing Numbers"
Mini Report: "Confusing Numbers"
Mini Report: "Scary Numbers"
- Week 4 September 17
The Normal Curve, Ch. 5, Healey
Quiz 4
Mini Report: "A Graphical Investigation of the Scourge of Vietnam"
Mini Report: "Two Mind-Bending Statistical Paradoxes"
Exam I
- Week 5 September 24
Sampling; Estimation Procedures, Ch. 6, 7, Healey
Quiz 5
Mini Report: "Order in the Court" & "No Order in the Court"
Mini Report: "Like a Trout in the Milk"
Mini Report: "Scaling the Market"

- Week 6 October 1
 One-Sample; Two-Sample; Ch. 8, 9, Healey
 Quiz 6
 Mini Report: "Sex, Smoking, and Life Insurance: A Graphical View"
 Mini Report: "There They Go Again!"
 Mini Report: "Sex and Sports: How Quickly Are Women Gaining?"
- Week 7 October 8
 Analysis of Variance; Chi Square, Ch. 10, 11, Healey
 Quiz 7
 Mini Report: "Clear Thinking Made Visible: Redesigning Score Reports for Students"
 Exam II
- Week 8 October 15
 Bivariate Association; Nominal level, Ch. 12, 13, Healey
 Liebetrau, *Measures of Association*
 Reynolds, *Analysis of Nominal Data*
 Quiz 8
 Mini Report: "The Relative Influence of Youth and Adult Experiences on Personal Spirituality and Church Involvement"
 Mini Report: "Young Dads: The Effects of a Parenting Program on Urban African-American Adolescent Fathers."
 Mini Report: "Cigarette Smoking and the Disenfranchisement of Adolescent Girls: A Discourse of Resistance?"
- Week 9 October 22
 Association between Variables, Ordinal; Interval-Ratio, Ch. 14, Healey
 Quiz 9
 Mini Report: "Rebellion, Modernity, and Romance: Smoking as a Gendered Practice in Popular Young Women's Magazines, Britain 1918-1939"
 Mini Report: "The Impact of Social Structure on Mate Selection: An Empirical Evaluation of an Active-Learning Exercise"
 Mini Report: "The Effect of Enforcement on Merchant Compliance with the Minimum Legal Drinking Age Law"
- Week 10 October 29
 Association between Interval-Ratio Variables, Ch. 15, Healey
 Mini Report: "Spankers and Nonspankers: Where They Get Information on Spanking"
 Quiz 10
 Exam III

- Week 11 November 5
Elaborating Bivariate Tables, Ch. 16, Healey
Quiz 11
Mini Report: "Predictors of Fear of Criminal Victimization at School among Adolescents"
Mini Report: "Race, Gender, and Status: A Content Analysis of Print Advertisements in Four Popular Magazines"
Mini Report: "Graffiti on the Great Plains: A Social Reaction to the Red River Valley Flood of 1997"
- Week 12 November 12
Partial Correlation and Multiple Regression, Ch. 17, Healey
Lewis-Beck, *Applied Regression*
Quiz 12
Mini Report: "Neither Real Americans nor Real Asians? Multigeneration Asian Ethnics Navigating the Terrain of Authenticity"
Mini Report: "Exceptions to the Rule: Upwardly Mobile White and Mexican American High School Girls"
Mini Report: "The Glass Phallus: Pub(lic) Masculinity and Drinking in Rural New Zealand"
- Week 13 November 19
Exam IV
- Week 14 November 26
Thanksgiving Break
- Week 15 December 3
Mini Report: "'Button-Down Terror': The Metamorphosis of the Hate Movement"
Mini Report: "Ties That Bind: Correlates of Adolescents' Civic Commitments in Seven Countries"
Work on project and prepare for presentations
- Week 16 December 10
Semester Project Paper Due
Presentations