

**Course Syllabus SOC 308**  
**Statistics for the Social Sciences**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Mondays and Wednesdays**  
**8 – 9:40 am**  
**Ag 152 & CAIRL Computer Lab-Faner Hall 3208**

Instructor: Kylan Mattias de Vries

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**Course Description and Objectives:** This course introduces students to statistics utilized in quantitative analysis in the social sciences. Statistics is the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of data. You will acquire the tools for calculating basic statistical functions, and learn the role of quantitative research in analyzing social phenomenon. Part of learning statistics is becoming familiar with a new language, it is therefore essential to keep up with the readings and attend lecture – one is not a replacement for the other.

We are building a foundation in this course, giving you the necessary information to be better adept at reading academic articles, and critically thinking about social issues. Throughout the semester we will apply what we are learning, both in the classroom and in the computer lab utilizing SPSS.

**Required Texts**

Levin, Jack and James Alan Fox. 2007. *Elementary Statistics in Social Research: The Essentials* by Jack Levin and James Alan Fox, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Boston: Pearson.

Thomas W. Pavkov and Kent A. Pierce. 2007. Ready, Set, Go! A Student Guide to SPSS 13.0 and 14.0 for Windows (2nd Edition). McGraw Hill.

**Additional Requirements:** USB Flash Drive, and basic calculator

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

**Attendance:** Attendance is critical in this course. Each class builds upon the previous. In addition, you will not pass by the exams alone.

**Reading Assignments:** Reading the materials **before** class is critical to learning statistics. The required readings are listed below, and you are responsible for all of them.

**Homework:** Statistics takes lots of practice; as such there will be several homework assignments, worth a total of 140 points. The due dates for the assignments are listed on the attached course schedule. All assignments come from the Levin and Fox textbook. Your grade will be based on the work you do, not on the correct answer – so be sure to show **all your work!** Also, it is a good idea to keep a photocopy of your homework before you turn it in. Homework can be turned in either during class or during my office hours on the day it is due. If you have questions about the homework, see me in advance, I'm more than happy to schedule a time to meet with you.

**Labs:** Several Wednesdays we will meet in the CAIRL computer lab (Faner 3208), this will include lab exercises intended to introduce you SPSS. The dates for meeting in the lab are listed on the course schedule. You are encouraged to help each other, the best way to learn statistics is to help explain it to others; however, each of you must turn in your OWN work. There are a total of 80 lab assignments, worth 80 points.

Homework and lab assignments must be turned in on time, and can not be made up at another date. Late assignments will be docked 20% per day.

**Portfolio:** You will keep a portfolio of all your work in this class – this includes homework, inclass, and lab assignments, and exams. I suggest you buy a three ring binder immediately and keep it up-to-date. If you maintain this from the beginning, it will be an easy 30 points.

**In-Class Assignments:** There will be a few in-class assignments given throughout the semester (thus attendance is critical). They are worth a total of 60 points. Again, your grade will be based on the work you do, not on the correct answer – so be sure to show all your work. I will occasionally have you work in groups; however, you must still submit your own work.

**Exams:** There will be a total of four exams in the course. Exams will be based on materials from lecture, lab, and your textbooks. They will be during class time, except for the 4<sup>th</sup> exam which will be held during the final exam time. They will be closed-book, closed-notes; however, you can use a calculator – not one that is part of a cell phone, pager, or other electronic device. You may also bring one index card (no bigger than 5 x 8 inches) with formulas and notes (anything other than a 5 x 8” index card will not be allowed). Although the exams are not cumulative, materials in the course build upon each other.

I will allow you to drop your lowest score on the exams. Therefore only three (for a total of 300 points) will count towards your grade. Be sure not to waste this opportunity.

In-class assignments and exams must be turned in on time. I **only** allow makeups for 3 **documented** reasons: you are out of class because of personal illness (accompanied by documentation from a physician), illness and/or death of an immediate family member, or you have to be away on university business accompanied by a letter from the person in charge of your need to be away. Makeups must be completed within **one week** of the original assignment date, otherwise you will receive a grade of “0”.

**Grading Scale:**

<b>Homework Assignments</b>	=	<b>23%</b>	<b>140 pts</b>
<b>In-class Assignments</b>	=	<b>10%</b>	<b>60 pts</b>
<b>Labs</b>	=	<b>13%</b>	<b>80 pts</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	=	<b>5%</b>	<b>30 pts</b>
<b>Exams total</b>	=	<b>49%</b>	<b>300 pts</b>
Exam #1	=	100 pts	
Exam #2	=	100 pts	
Exams #3	=	100 pts	
Exam #4 (final)	=	100 pts	
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<b>Total Points</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>610 pts</b>

## **Other Stuff**

**Cheating:** All SIUC policies regarding plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be upheld in this course. Make sure you are familiar with the University Student Conduct Code (<http://www.dce.siu.edu/siuconnected/studentresources/StudentHandbook/studentconduct.html>). I will not tolerate cheating. Any work found to involve any acts of academic dishonesty will be given a “0”. I encourage you to utilize study groups, but you must turn in your own work for each assignment.

**Classroom Decorum:** I encourage and expect you to ask questions and make comments. Come prepared and respect your fellow classmates.

Distractions are just that, they do affect the entire class. Some of these distractions include cell phones, eating, listening to music, sleeping (you may snore), reading a newspaper, being online, playing a game, coming in late or leaving early. Not only are these a distraction to the entire class, I find them personally disrespectful. If you must leave early, let me know ahead of time.

**Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Statement:** I encourage persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet with me as soon as possible, special accommodations will be arranged upon receiving documentation from the Disabled Students Services (DSS). For more information on the services provided by SIUC DSS, contact them at [DSSsiu@siu.edu](mailto:DSSsiu@siu.edu), (618) 453-5738, or TTY: (618) 453-2293 (<http://www.siu.edu/~dss/>) – some of these services include note takers, adapted course materials, tutorials, etc.

**Emergency Procedures:** Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and health environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at [www.bert.siu.edu](http://www.bert.siu.edu), Department of Safety’s website [www.dps.siu.edu](http://www.dps.siu.edu) (disaster drop down), and in Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

Schedule of Classes (subject to change)			* plus unannounced in-class assignments	
Week	Day	Reading Due	Homework Due	Test
1	Mon, Aug 18	Syllabus, course introduction		
	Wed, Aug 20	Chapter 1 – Why Use Stats & Appendix A - Math review		
2	Mon, Aug 25	Chapter 2 – Organizing the Data	Ch 1 #1-4 (5 pts)	
	Wed, Aug 27	Chapter 3 – Measures of Central Tendency	Ch 2 #2,6,8,10-12,17 (20 pts)	
3	Mon, Sept 1	No Class September 1– Labor Day		
	Wed, Sept 3	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 1& 2 (15 pts) Ch 3 #5-9, 17 & 22 (15 pts)	
4	Mon, Sept 8	Chapter 4 – Measures of Variability	Ch 4 #1-7, 11, 15 (15 pts)	
	Wed, Sept 10			Exam #1 - Ch 1-4
5	Mon, Sept 15	Chapter 5 – Probability and the Normal Curve		
	Wed, Sept 17		Ch 5 #2-4, 6, 11 (15 pts)	
6	Mon, Sept 22	Chapter 6 – Samples and Populations		
	Wed, Sept 24	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 3 (10 pts) Ch 6 #1-6, 8 & 9 (15 pts)	
7	Mon, Sept 29	Chapter 7 – Testing Differences Between Means		
	Wed, Oct 1	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 4 (10 pts) Ch 7 #1-10, 20 & 32 (15 pts)	
8	Mon, Oct 6	cont of Ch 5-7		
	Wed, Oct 8			Exam #2 - Ch. 5-7
9	Mon, Oct 13	Chapter 8 – Analysis of Variance		
	Wed, Oct 15	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 6 (10 pts)	
10	Mon, Oct 20	Chapter 9 – Nonparametric Tests of Significance	Ch 8 #1-4, 18 (10 pts)	
	Wed, Oct 22	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 10 (10 pts)	
11	Mon, Oct 27	cont of Ch 8 & 9	Ch 9 #1-6, 13 (10 pts)	
	Wed, Oct 29	cont of Ch 8 & 9		
12	Mon, Nov 3			Exam #3 - Ch. 8-9
	Wed, Nov 5	Chapter 10 – Correlation		
13	Mon, Nov 10	Chapter 11 – Regression Analysis	Ch 10 #1-6, 15 (10 pts)	
	Wed, Nov 12	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 8 (10 pts)	
14	Mon, Nov 17	cont of Ch 10 & 11	Ch 11 #1-4, 9 (10 pts)	
	Wed, Nov 19	Meet in Faner Computer Lab	SPSS Ch 9 (10 pts)	
15		<i>Fall Break</i>		
16	Mon, Dec 1	Chapter 13 – Applying Stats to Research Problems		
	Wed, Dec 3	cont of Ch 3	Portfolio (30 pts)	
<b>Final Exam is on Monday, Dec 8th 07:50-09:50 a.m.</b>				Exam #4 - Ch 10, 11, 13