

PA/POEC/CRIM 5313 (001), Fall 2008 (3 hrs)
 T 4:00 - 6:45 pm (WSTC 1.216)
 Office hours: To Be Determined
 Teaching Assistant hours: To Be Determined

Professor Simon Fass
 Office: WSTC 1.220
 tel: (972) 883-2938
 e-mail: fass@utdallas.edu
 (but please use WebCT6 for course purposes)

Descriptive and Inferential Statistics

This course provides an introduction to basic methods of statistical description and analysis that are widely used in social science and in public affairs research applications. It offers grounding in descriptive and inferential statistics, including measures of central tendency and of dispersion, probability theory, frequency distribution, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, correlation and regression. It also covers concepts of measurement, sampling, and sampling bias. Along the way the course equips students to understand statistical discussions in academic and non-academic writings, to apply techniques covered in the course to their own work, and to move toward the next level of coursework on the subject (e.g., POEC 5316 Advanced Regression).

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- ❖ be conversant with commonly-used statistical concepts and methods in the social sciences;
- ❖ know how to apply the methods, as appropriate, for the kinds of data and analytical purposes at hand; and
- ❖ be educated consumers, able to use what they learn to understand statistical information and statistical arguments that they confront in everyday life and in future coursework.

Pre-requisite:

A strong foundation in arithmetic and in college-level algebra is absolutely essential. To assess student proficiency in these areas, there will be a short self-assessment exercise during the first day of class. It will help students (and the instructor) decide whether an urgent refresher is in order or, at the limit, whether the student should postpone the course until proficiency rises.

Required Text:

Alan Agresti and Barbara Finlay, *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences*, 4th edition, Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009

Recommended Texts:

Those who enjoy second and/or third opinions on the subject, and/or who want friendlier access to basic topics, might also want to get hold of the following (but this is just a suggestion):

Gerald Kranzler, Janet Moursund & John H. Kranzler, *Statistics for the Terrified*, 4th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2007

David S. Moore and William I. Notz, *Statistics: Concepts and Controversies*, 6th Edition, W. H. Freeman, 2006

Required Materials:

A basic calculator with 1 memory, a square root function, and a power function is essential. Banned from the class are: calculators with stat functions (e.g. TI-30, TI-84), graphing or programmable calculators, cell phone calculators, PDA calculators, laptops (i.e., notebook computers), electric abacuses and every other device. The only type allowed is basic, e.g.:



Statistical analysis software is not required. The course concentrates on understanding the logic and mathematics of analysis. However, to expose students to some of the ways by which common packages help to simplify data manipulation and analysis, the latter part of most class sessions will briefly illustrate how analysis can be done with MS Excel and Stata. Most students are equipped with MS Excel, and can access Stata through the student computer labs in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences. Students may also acquire Stata for own use directly from StataCorp at: <http://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/gp-direct.html>

Grading: Grades are based on (almost) weekly in-class quizzes. There are ten (12) quizzes, all open book and open note, each lasting about an hour. The average of the student's nine (9) best quiz results determines the final grade. The grading structure is:

90% and higher =A (4.00); 80 to 89% = B (3.33); 70 to 79 % =C; less than 70% = F

Academic Calendar

1.	Aug. 26	Overview Ch. 1: Introduction to Statistical Methodology
2.	Sept. 2	Ch. 2: Sampling and Measurement
3.	Sept. 9	Quiz 1 Ch. 3: Descriptive Statistics
4.	Sept. 16	Quiz 2 Ch. 4: Probability Distributions
5.	Sept. 23	Quiz 3 Ch. 5: Statistical Inference: Estimation
6.	Sept. 30	Quiz 4 Ch. 6: Statistical Inference: Significance Tests
7.	Oct. 7	Quiz 5 Ch. 7: Comparing Two Groups

8.	Oct. 14	Quiz 6 Ch. 12: Comparing Groups: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
9.	Oct. 21	Quiz 7 Ch. 8: Association Between Categorical Variables
10.	Oct. 28	Quiz 8 Ch. 9: Linear Regression and Correlation
11.	Nov. 4	Quiz 9 Ch. 10: Introduction to Multivariate Relationships
12.	Nov. 11	Quiz 10 Ch.11: Multiple Regression and Correlation
13.	Nov. 18	Quiz 11 Ch.13: Combining Regression and ANOVA
14.	Nov. 25	Ch.13: Combining Regression and ANOVA - continued
15.	Dec. 2	Quiz 12 Ch.14: Model Building with Multiple Regression

Additional Course Policies

Class Decorum

no cell phones on or text messaging; no notebook computers on

Make-up Exams

none

Extra Credit

none

Class Attendance

not obligatory (though one should note that taking a quiz in absentia is tough)

Classroom Citizenship

civility and politeness are appreciated

Student Conduct and Discipline : The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity: The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

E-mail Use: The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class: The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures : Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grades: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services: The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is: The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22, PO Box 830688, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688, (972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY) Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days : The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment. If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at: http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm

Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

The descriptions and timelines above are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.