SOCI 206: Introduction to Social Research II
Spring 2022, Online (Asynchronous)

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Office Hours: Online https://unl.zoom.us/j/9726116137
Tuesday & Wednesday 10-11 am or by appointment

Course Description:
SOCI 206-Introduction to Social Research II is designed to introduce students to the basic statistical methods that social researchers use to describe and evaluate the social world. The course will cover descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, and bivariate measures of association. Students will also gain experience using OLS regression models. The emphasis of the course is on generating, interpreting, and understanding the results of statistical tests. Students will also gain experience with the Stata statistical software package. This course provides a foundation for students to grow both as future researchers and active consumers of statistics in everyday life.

What do I need for the course?

- Technology:
  - Device with Zoom, Remote Desktop, and Canvas capabilities and access
    - Access to the Stata software (more about Stata below)
  - A calculator. You can use your phone or computer, but you must be able to use a square root function.

- Book: You do not need to purchase the book, unless you would like a hardcopy!
  - Hardcopy: Available through the bookstore
  - PDF: On Canvas under Files > “Book: Agresti and Franklin”

What will I learn in this class?

- Practical skills to analyze and draw conclusions from quantitative social science data. We will focus on understanding, computing, and interpreting basic statistics; interpreting and evaluating survey research findings; and analyzing quantitative data with the statistical software program Stata.
- Knowledge of how to answer social science questions and problems with quantitative and statistical data and make inferences to a population of interest using descriptive statistics, bivariate associations, and multivariate techniques.
- How to analyze and draw conclusions from quantitative data to provide evidence to answer questions and investigate sociological theories.
This is an “ACE” course and will focus on ACE Learning Outcome #3: Use mathematical, computational, statistical, or formal reasoning (including reasoning based on principles of logic) to solve problems, draw inferences, and determine reasonableness. This course introduces students to the basic statistical analysis of social data, including descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, bivariate measures of association, and multivariate techniques. These ACE learning requirements will be assessed by homework assignments, exams, and participation in weekly activities.

How is the class structured?
The class is structured in weekly modules on the Canvas page.

- Each week will have course material in the form of a powerpoint, reading or short lecture videos. These will be posted by Mondays at 8 am each week (or before). These will be listed under the “Watch:” or “Read:” headings in the weekly module.
- Modules will also have weekly participation assignments (including short “quizzes”, activities and discussions) under the “Do:” headings. These assignments will be due on Fridays at 11:59 pm.
- Some weeks will be lab weeks, where there will be a lab video for you to follow along with in Stata. Lab weeks will also have a homework assignment, which will be due the following Mondays at 11:59 pm (to ensure you have time to ask questions and figure out any technological issues).
- There are two concept-based exams for this class.

We will also be learning the software Stata. We will use STATA to complete homework assignments. The skills and concepts throughout the semester will prepare you for upcoming assignments. Topics and assignments build on each other, so participation, weekly assignments and homework are all important aspects of the course!

There are several ways you should prep for our class:

- Types of quantitative data analytic techniques & their relevance to social issues.
- How to read, interpret, and understand published quantitative social science research literature.
- How social science researchers use the scientific method and hypothesis testing for testing sociological theories and questions that are appropriate for quantitative analysis.
- How to be an informed consumer of statistics in everyday life.
- Statistical literacy, including descriptive statistics, inferential statistics, bivariate measures of association, and multivariate techniques, and developing their practical skills using a statistical software program (Stata).
1. Turn on your Canvas Announcements notifications. This is how I will communicate anything outside of the weekly schedule (like assignment reminders or schedule changes).
2. Read or watch material uploaded to Canvas early in the week.
3. Complete the weekly participation assignments on time.
4. Ask for help on any technological issues sooner rather than later. This is especially important for getting your remote desktop set up early in the semester so you can complete labs and homework assignments.

How will my grade be determined?

Assignments and Grading:
- Weekly Participation Assignments (approximately 80 points over the course of the semester, 5-10 points per week)
- Homework (approximately 80 points)
  - There are 6 homework assignments, valued at 13 points each.
- Exams (80 points)
  - Exam 1 (40 points)
  - Exam 2 (40 points)
- Extra Credit (approximately 5 points)
  - There will be several opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester. These will be labelled within the modules, through Canvas announcements, or on exams.

Participation:
Participation and engagement with the weekly material is highly valued and contributes to your grade! Participation points make up a significant portion of your grade, and are designed to help you understand and practice working with the concepts you will use in labs, homework, and on exams. You will receive points for solid attempts at completion of these assignments, and they’re a chance to get feedback before more “high stakes” assignments!

Homework Assignments:
There are 6 homework assignments over the course of the semester. In these assignments, we will combine lecture concepts and statistical software to analyze real data! All of the commands and code you will use for the homework assignments can be found in the lab lecture videos and guide do-files. You will need Stata access to complete the homework assignments. There are a few options for accessing Stata, on your personal computer or on campus.
- Option 1: The sociology department computer lab (738 Oldfather Hall) has the Stata software available on 16 computers via departmental servers. The lab is
open 8:30 am to 4:45 pm Monday-Friday (and often has friendly people who can help answer your Stata questions). There is an elevator in Oldfather.

- **Option 2**: Remote desktop connection via GlobalProtect and the “soc-analyzer.unl.edu” PC.


**Important**: Your first assignment is to demonstrate that you have successfully accessed Stata. This is an important piece of the course—so if you need additional help, you must let me know as soon as possible!

You are encouraged to work with other students on assignments, but each student must turn in their own work. If evidence of cheating and/or copying is clear and will result in a zero for that assignment and referral to UNL judicial affairs.

Homework will be assigned approximately one week before the due date, on Canvas. Late assignments are penalized 10% per day they are late. Your assignments should be Word documents, where you have pasted your Stata output. At the end of each assignment, copy and paste your do-file. Make sure you have addressed all aspects of the assignment before submitting it for full credit. **Assignments are to be submitted via Canvas.**

**Tips**: Save your work and code often and label as much as possible! You never know what may be useful to you in other homework, or later on in your academic career. Let me know if you’re having trouble, I am here to help! Office hours are a great time to receive help, as we can share screens and I can see what is going on with your code.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to email me or reach out to your fellow students. The **Course Question Forum** is also a good place to do this on Canvas: [https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/127988/discussion_topics/850362?module_item_id=3055413](https://canvas.unl.edu/courses/127988/discussion_topics/850362?module_item_id=3055413)

**Exams:**
There are two exams in the course. These exams will be based on the concepts we learn during lecture, and will not use Stata. The exams will be timed and on Canvas. As such, you will be able to use notes during the exams.

**Important:**
**Have you taken a similar statistics course before?** If so, much of this class may be a review. If you would like to talk about an alternative syllabus and course schedule, please contact me before the end of the first week!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>98-100 A+</th>
<th>87-89 B+</th>
<th>77-79 C+</th>
<th>67-69 D+</th>
<th>0-59 F</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-93 A</td>
<td>83-86 B</td>
<td>73-76 C</td>
<td>63-66 D</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92 A-</td>
<td>80-83 B-</td>
<td>70-72 C-</td>
<td>60-62 D-</td>
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Final grades are rounded up to the nearest whole number. **Example:** An 82.1% and 82.9% are both equal to an 83% or B for the course.

**Pass/No Pass:**
Students may choose to take the course as pass/no pass. If taking this option, the student must earn a C or better grade to earn the “pass.” No incompletes will be given for the course without approval.

**What are the course policies for Soci-206?**

**UNL Course Policies and Resources:**
Students are responsible for knowing the university policies and resources found on this page (https://go.unl.edu/coursepolicies):
- University-wide Attendance Policy
- Academic Honesty Policy
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Mental Health and Well-Being Resources
- Final Exam Schedule
- Fifteenth Week Policy
- Emergency Procedures
- Diversity & Inclusiveness
- Title IX Policy
- Other Relevant University-Wide Policies