

Sam Houston State University
Department of Political Science
Quantitative Methods for Political Science (3 credit hours)
Course Syllabus (374:02, CID 4100)
Fall 2009

Dr. Rina Majumdar
Office: CHSS Building, Rm. 481
Phone: (936) 294 – 4757
E-mail: majumdar@shsu.edu

Office Hours:
Tuesday: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Thursday: 10:00 am – 11:00 am
or by appointment

Class meets: CHSS Room 242B, Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:20 pm

Course Description

This course introduces the basic principles of statistics to students. It would help students to gain knowledge of both descriptive and inferential statistics. Knowledge of statistics is highly valued in today's society. Most reports rely on statistics to convey messages on recent trends in politics, socio-economic events and in health related studies. In this class, various statistical methods would be taught which would enable students to read and understand reports, conduct their own statistical analyses, make meaningful interpretations of data using appropriate statistical methods and informed decisions through hypotheses testing.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to promote understanding of the various statistical methods that are available to academic researchers and practitioners in the field of social science. Many of these statistical procedures when used as tools of inquiry can help to answer various questions in social science and determine the presence of a relationship if any, among different variables. Since the *selection of an appropriate statistical technique* plays an important role in investigation of a social problem, students in this class will learn not only the different tools of statistical analysis but also *when* and *how* to use them in analysis of various political and socio-economic events.

Class Requirements

The course will emphasize on lectures and detailed discussions of statistical concepts. You are expected to read the textbook before the class. All examinations will focus solely on lectures, readings from the textbook, problem solving and discussions in class.

All students are expected to attend all classes regularly and attendance will be taken in each class. Absence in any class will make it difficult to follow the statistical procedures covered in the class. Only absences for legitimate causes will be accepted. Students must inform of such absences prior to the class, make necessary arrangements to copy notes from classmates and catch up with the class. Too many absences may lead to an unsatisfactory grade for the term.

The Blackboard (BB) software will be used to communicate with students in the class. Please check the BB on a regular basis for announcements. All test grades will be posted in the Grade Center of the BB.

Required Text

Gravetter, F. J. and Wallnau, L.B. 2009. Statistics for the Behavioral Science, Thomson and Wadsworth, Belmont, California.

Required Supplies

Students must bring their own calculator to each class. A calculator capable of performing basic functions, square roots, etc. needs to be purchased. Scientific calculator is not necessary but if you have one, you may use it in this class.

A binder with college ruled paper or a spiral notebook (college ruled) is required in this class.

For the exams, buy two Big Blue Books. Books can be reused in exams.

Attendance Policy:

All students are required to attend all classes. In case, a student cannot attend a class due to a serious problem, you must keep the instructor informed. It is your responsibility to check with the instructor the topic and course materials, which were covered in class and to complete the assigned homework. Too many absences will lead to referral to the appropriate administrative office in the university.

Class Conduct

Students will not talk or engage in any type of activity that might cause distraction in the class. **Drinks are allowed in class but not food.** Cell phones and pagers need to be turned off during class hours. Exceptions can be made only for those whose work may require them to stay connected with workplace or in emergency situations (please put them in the vibration mode).

Assignments

Students will be assigned problems to solve after each class. It is your responsibility to work out these practice problems and test your own knowledge. Volunteers will be required in each class to put up the assigned homework problems on the Dry Erase Board in the next class and participation points will be awarded for that.

Exams

In this course, students will be evaluated on a set of three exams and on class attendance and participation. **Students may not leave the class during the examination.** Exam topics will be announced few weeks prior to the exam and a review session will be held prior to each exam. *Do not forget to bring the Big Blue Book and a calculator for the exam.*

First Exam = 25 points

Second Exam = 25 points

Final Exam = 40 points

Class Attendance and Participation = $5 + 5 = 10$ points

Grading Plan

Final grades will be computed on the following basis:

A = 90 points and above

B = 80 – 89 points

C = 70 – 79 points

D = 60 – 69 points

F = 59 points and below

Study Tips

At home, go over the topics covered in each class and do your homework on a regular basis. **No extra credit work will be given to any students in the class.** Please do not wait until the last minute to prepare for your exams. If you need help, please stop by my office during the given time period or make an appointment to see me.

Americans with Disabilities:

Any request for disability accommodation must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. This instructor requires documentation from the Counseling Center in order to provide accommodations.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Cheating on the exams or the paper will result in administrative sanctions including being reported to the Dean of Students, failing the course, or academic expulsion.

This instructor takes academic dishonesty very seriously and will penalize students who engage in it. SHSU defines "cheating" as

"1) copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

3) collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

4) knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test....

[Http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty](http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty)

Religious Holidays

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in Classroom

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

Instructor Evaluation

All students must fill out the instructor evaluation form at the end of the semester.

Tentative Course Outline – Fall 2009

Please Note: *The instructor reserves the right to alter the syllabus, including dates for examinations as needed. These changes will be announced in class and may appear in Blackboard announcements. It is the student's responsibility to become aware of the changes.*

8/25	Introduction to statistics	Chapter 1
8/27 & 9/1	Frequency Distributions	Chapter 2
9/03 & 9/08	Central Tendency	Chapter 3
9/10 & 9/15	Variability	Chapter 4
9/17	z Scores	Chapter 5
9/22	Class Review	
September 24	***First Exam***	25 points
9/29 & 10/1	Probability	Chapter 6
10/6 & 10/08	Distribution of sample means	Chapter 7
10/13	Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 8
10/15 & 10/20	t statistic	Chapter 9
10/22	Estimation	Chapter 12
10/27	Class Review	
October 29	***Second Exam***	25 points
11/03 & 11/05	Correlation	Chapter 16
11/10 & 11/12	Chi Square	Chapter 18
11/17 & 11/19	ANOVA	Chapter 13
11/24, 12/01 & 12/03	Regression	Chapter 17
12/08	Class Review	
December	***FINAL EXAM***	40 points
	Date to be announced	