

**PSY 387.03 – Elementary Statistics  
Fall 2008**

**Instructor:** Laura Heinonen  
**Class Time:** Monday, 6:00-8:50  
**Laboratory:** Monday, 9:00-9:50  
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**Office Hrs:** Mon, 8:00-9:00; Wed, 8:00-12:00; and by appointment

**Required Text**

Gravetter, F.J., & Wallnau, L.B. (2006). *Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN 0495095206

**Course Description**

This course is designed to teach students the basic concepts of statistics as applied to psychology. Fundamental principles of statistical analysis will be discussed, including both descriptive and inferential statistics.

**Course Objectives**

1. Students will gain factual knowledge in the area of statistical analysis and learn the basic terminology and concepts of statistics.
2. Students will learn the fundamental principles of statistical analysis and be able to determine appropriate statistics for basic research designs.
3. Students will learn how to interpret and apply the outcomes of statistical analysis with respect to psychological research.
4. Students will learn the basic functions and statistical components of SPSS.

**Course Requirements**

Course grades will be determined by performance on three exams and four in-class laboratory assignments. The following grading system will be used for all exams, the lab assignments, and the final course grade: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = 59-0%.

**Exams**

Four non-cumulative exams will be administered during this course. The format for each exam will be multiple choice and each exam will be worth 50 points. Students will have the option of dropping their lowest exam grade. There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!** A missed exam will count as your dropped exam for this course.

**Laboratory Assignments**

Four lab assignments will be administered and completed during the class period before each exam. The assignments will utilize SPSS and serve as practice/study for the upcoming exam. Each lab assignment will be worth 50 points. Additional information on the requirements and format of the lab assignments will be administered in class.

Exams	3 highest grades (50 points each)	150 points
Lab Assignments	4 in-class grades (50 points each)	200 points
<b>Total Course Grade</b>	<b>Exams + Lab Assignments</b>	<b>350 points</b>

### **Extra Credit**

Students may earn a maximum of 15 extra credit points by participating in psychological research through the Psychology Research Participation system (PeRP). Students may participate in a maximum of 5 hours of research and will earn three points for each hour. The maximum 15 extra credit points will be added to the student's final score at the end of the semester. Students will need to set up an account on the PeRP system via the following website: <http://shsu.sona-systems.com/>

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance in class is expected and required. Exams are heavily weighted toward material covered in lectures. In keeping with university policy, 2 absences are allowed without any penalty. Three or more absences will result in a grade reduction.

### **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. Section 51.911(a)(2) defines religious holy days as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code . . . ." 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. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent him/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s).

### **Academic Honesty**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty. DO NOT CHEAT!!!

### **Students with Disabilities**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the you register with the Counseling Center.

### **Visitors in the Classroom**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis with approval of the instructor.

### Course Schedule

The course schedule is tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. An updated syllabus will be provided if significant changes occur.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	<u>LAB ASSIGNMENT</u>
8/25	Introduction	Chapter 1	
<b>9/1</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>		
9/8	Frequency Distributions	Chapter 2	
9/15	Central Tendency	Chapter 3	<b>Assignment #1</b>
<b>9/22</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
9/29	Variability	Chapter 4	
10/6	Z-scores	Chapter 5	
10/13	Probability	Chapter 6 & 7	<b>Assignment #2</b>
<b>10/20</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
10/27	Hypothesis Testing	Chapter 8	
11/3	The $t$ Statistic	Chapter 9	
11/10	Independent Samples $t$	Chapter 10	<b>Assignment #3</b>
<b>11/17</b>	<b>EXAM 3</b>		
11/24	Related-Samples $t$	Chapter 11	
12/1	Estimation	Chapter 12	
12/8	Correlation	Chapter 16	<b>Assignment #4</b>
<b>12/15</b>	<b>EXAM 4</b>		