

SOC 343: SOCIAL ANALYSIS**Fall, 2009****Credit Hours: 3 hours****Location of Class Meeting: CHSS 206****Class Meeting Time: MWF: 1-1:50 p.m. Lab Meeting Time: MO: 2-2:50 p.m. or WE: 3-3:50 pm****Instructor: Dr. Furjen Deng****Office Location: CHSS, 270U****Instructor Contact Information: (936) 294-1515, Fax: (936)294-3573, Email: soc_fjd@shsu.edu****Office Hours: MF: 10-11, 3-4 pm or by appointment****Teaching Assistant: Dory Y. Chen****COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the three broad categories of statistical techniques: Descriptive statistics, measures of association, and statistical inferences. Lectures, assigned readings, in-class exercises, and homework assignments will be used to describe and illustrate the logic, interpretation, and basic assumptions of various statistical techniques. To further enhance the learning process, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) is also adopted to analyze the data. SPSS will be taught during the lab section (Monday, 2 to 2:50 pm or Wednesday, 3-3:50 pm). All students are also required to register the lab section (CID# 6624 or #6625).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To provide a clear and detailed step-by-step illustrations of statistical techniques taken up in this course.
2. To learn how to apply statistical procedures in the social research process.
3. To find the usefulness of statistics in explaining complicated social phenomena.
4. To help students establish solid statistical knowledge at the introductory level, which will provide a good foundation for advanced courses, individual study, or leading to expertise with respect to these areas.

TEXTS:

1. Levin, Jack and James Alan Fox. 2006. *Elementary Statistics in Social Research*, 10th Edition, Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.
2. A pack of lecture notes is on sale at Eagle Graphics (phone #: 295-6343).

REQUIREMENTS:

Class Attendance (4%): Following University policy pertaining to class attendance, regular attendance is expected of each student. Particular in borderline cases, exceptionally fine or weak class involvement will be considered in the calculation of the final grade. The highest class attendance grade is an "A" and this allows up to six hours absence.

Homeworks: There will be **TWELVE** homework assignments (1% each). The homework will be a combination of pencil and computer exercises. While you can talk to each other about the homework assignments, please be sure to do your own write-up. Homework is normally due at one week after it is

given. **NO LATE HOMEWORK.**

Exams: There will be **FOUR major exams (21% each)**. All exams are open books and open notes. Specific dates for exams will be announced in the class as the course progresses. The student is allowed to make up one missed exam if she or he receives consent from the instructor before the exam. Any makeup exam will be held at the end of the semester and is a comprehensive exam. **October 7, half-semester course ends and last day to drop the course without grade of F)**

GRADING PLAN:

Your final course grade will be computed as follows:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Percent</u>
12 Homework Assignments	12
4 Major Exams	84
<u>Attendance</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	100

You should get about 90% overall for an "A", 80% for a "B", 70% for a "C", and 60% for a "D". The cut-offs, however, are flexible and I may change them at the end of the semester if I consider it necessary. All assignments, supplemental materials, due dates for assignments, dates for major exams, and other important announcements related to the course are posted in the Blackboard. To access the Blackboard, go to www.shsu.edu and select "Blackboard" at "University Fast Links."

Computer Account: To use SPSS 15.0 for Windows, each student is required to have a computer account. If you don't have one and don't know how to get one, please come to see me or call the HELPDESK (phone #: 294-1950). After we finish the first three topics, several lab sessions will be held to show you how to use SPSS 15.0 for Windows. Details about the lab sessions will be announced later.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

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 and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. At a minimum the student will receive a failing grade on the assignment in which dishonesty was involved.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

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 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 (Lee Drain Annex, (936)-294-1720).

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

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.

INSTRUCTOR EVALUATIONS

To enhance the quality of teaching, each student will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT

Each student is expected to be fully acquainted and comply with all published policies, rules, and regulations of Sam Houston State University. Students are also expected to comply with all federal and state laws.

Section 5.2.22 of the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines that campus disruptive activities or disorderly conduct on component-owned or controlled property or at a component-sponsored or supervised function that inhibit or interfere with the educational responsibility of the component community or the component's social-educational activities shall include but not be limited to: using abusive, indecent, profane or vulgar language; making offensive gestures or displays that tend to incite a breach of the peace; perpetrating fights, assaults, acts of sexual violence, abuse, or threats; or evincing some obviously offensive manner or committing an act that causes a person to feel threatened. Such prohibition includes disorderly classroom conduct that obstructs, interferes with, inhibits and/or disrupts teaching and/or related classroom activities. **All cell phones should also be turn off or put in silent mode during the class.**

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

1. Administrative Details
2. The Role of Statistics in the Social Research Process

Read: Levin and Fox, Chs. 1 and 13; Topic 1

3. Organizing and Presenting Univariate Data; Descriptive Statistics

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 2; Notes, Topic 2

4. Describing Frequency Distributions; Measures of Central Tendency

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch.3; Notes, Topic 3

5. Describing Frequency Distribution; Measures of Variation

Read: Levin and Fox; Ch. 4; Notes, Topic 4

Exam One

6. Learning SPSS 15.0 for Windows

Read: Notes, Topic 5

7. The Normal Probability Distribution and Standard Score

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 5; Notes, Topic 6

8. Sampling Distributions

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 6:180-193; Notes, Topic 7

9. Inferential Statistics: Point and Interval Estimation

Read: Walsh and Ollenburger, Ch 6:194-210; Notes, Topic 8

Exam Two

10. Hypothesis Testing and One-Sample Tests

Read: Supplemental materials; Notes, Topic 9

11. Significance Tests for the Difference between Means and Between Proportions (Two-Samples Test) Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 7; Notes, Topic 10

12. Analysis of Variance; K-Samples Tests

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 8; Notes, Topic 11

Exam Three

13. Crosstabulation; Contingency Analysis

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch 9; Notes, Topic 12

14. Correlation Analysis

Read: Levin and Fox, Ch. 10; Notes, Topic 13

Exam Four (December 16, Monday, 2-4 p.m.)
