THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Social Work Statistics

Course Number:	SW 318	**Instructor**:	Max Kassler, Ph.D.
Unique Number:	66000	**E-mail**:	maxkassler@gmail.com
Semester:	Fall 2007	**Contact #**:	512.809.3406
Meeting Time:	M/W, 4:00-5:30	**Office Location**:	SSW 3.104-A
Meeting Place:	SSW 1.214 (IT Classroom)	**Office Hours**:	Wed, 3:00-4:00, by appointment

I. Standardized Course Description

This course is one of the two courses in research for undergraduate social work majors. Completion of the liberal arts math requirement is a prerequisite for this course. This course provides a basic introduction to the conceptual and quantitative tools used to describe and interpret data in the conduct of social work practice and research. Students will learn how to select, calculate, and interpret appropriate statistics applicable to common data analysis situations related to direct practice, administration and planning, and policy. The course provides students with the opportunity to acquire personal computer skills in Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS), version 13.0 to calculate statistics and present results. Students are required to complete SW318 prior to entering the major. Students majoring in social work must earn a grade of C or better in this course.

II. Standardized Course Objectives

The goal of the course is to help students develop critical eyes for adopting research. It is important to develop keen eyes to statistical information provided and to understand the fundamental reasoning of the use of particular statistical methods in obtaining the result. Upon completion of this course the students should be able to:

1. Explain the logic of the research process and its relationship to social work knowledge and practice;
2. Explain, calculate, and interpret descriptive statistics including: basic terminology, scales, notations, frequency distributions, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, and the normal distribution;
3. Read and analyze basic charts and graphs, contingency tables, and SPSS output results;
4. Explain, calculate, and interpret inferential statistics including probability and hypothesis tests;
5. Identify and apply the correct statistical technique to the research question;
6. Understand that statistics are value neutral, but can be used to support discriminatory and prejudicial value positions contrary to the values of social work, especially against special populations (e.g., women, people of color, people with disabilities, gays and lesbians);
7. Use computer technology to compute descriptive and inferential statistics; and
8. State several examples of how statistics are used as a tool in the "real world" by social service agencies to analyze client outcomes.

III. Methods of Instruction

The primary methods of instruction are interactive lectures, class discussion, written homework, and SPSS exercises. Assigned reading and written homework assignments are to be completed before each class.

IV. Required Course Materials

1. Required Text

   Frankfort-Nachmias, C., & Leon-Guerrero, A. (2006). *Social statistics for a diverse society, 4th edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

2. Supplementary Chapter Resources

   Pine Forge Press offers a study website to help you better understand the course materials. It is highly recommended that students log onto:

   http://www.pineforge.com/frankfort-nachmiasstudy4/

   and utilize the website to maximize your learning experience.

3. Computer Requirements

   We will use SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) to do the statistical calculations needed for this course. All in-class practices including exams will be done in the IT classroom SW 1.214. The text includes a student version of SPSS that can be installed on your Personal Computer for homework assignments. Should you decide to use a school computer to complete homework, all computers in the IT classroom, and computer labs located at the Social Work LRC (Learning Resources Center) and at the Flawn Academic Center (FAC: known as the Undergraduate Library) are equipped with the latest SPSS version and MS Word processor. You will need to have your UT EID and password ready. If you do not have an accessible PC at hand, it is best to check the availability and accessibility in advance. In order to inquire about their business hours and available services, go to http://www.utexas.edu/computer/fac/. Dr. Robert Canon (office 1.212AA located at the LRC entrance) is also available for installing the SPSS software or with setting up UTE ID accounts to obtain authorization to use the LRC computer lab.

4. Blackboard Use

   UT Blackboard will serve mainly two purposes for this course. Most of the class materials (e.g., syllabus, PowerPoint lecture notes, data sets for exercises, frequent course announcements, and grades) will be uploaded on blackboard.

V. Student Evaluation

1. Attendance and Class Participation, 5%

   Class attendance is required, and there is a class participation component to your grade. However, role will not be taken in class. It is expected that students will attend class where many topics are stressed or explained in better detail than the text offers, and it is expected that students will participate in class by asking questions, answering questions posed by the lecturer, and participating in group projects. Furthermore, it is expected that students will only miss class for medical emergencies, doctor's appointments, and university sanctioned activities that may occur during the semester. Failure to attend class lectures will likely hurt your chances of receiving a high grade in this class.

2. Homework Assignments, 35% (7 at 5% apiece)

   There will be seven homework assignments to be completed across the semester. They will require both a manual computation of the statistics covered in the course and an SPSS component in which many of the statistics computed by hand will be calculated on the computer.

   Homework must be handed in at the beginning of the class period in which it is due. Late homework will not be accepted without a prior agreement.

   After homework has been graded and returned, you may submit a corrected homework assignment for half of the points that were deducted from the original submission. For example, a homework that scored initially scored 84% could be corrected and resubmitted for a score of 92% (assuming all of the corrections were correct).

3. Exams, 60% (3 at 20% apiece; optional final exam)

   There will be three exams given during the course of the semester.

   A cumulative final exam will be given at the end of the semester. This exam is optional. If you choose to take it, and score better on it than one of your previous exams, it will replace your lowest regular semester exam grade. Your grade on the final exam will not lower your current grade.

4. Grading

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	90.00%	—	100%
B	80.00%	—	89.99%
C	70.00%	—	79.99%
D	60.00%	—	69.99%
F	0%	—	59.99%

Point totals will not be rounded up to a higher grade. Since students have the opportunity to correct homework assignments to improve their grade, and a chance to replace their low-test grade with the optional final, there is ample opportunity to assure that they have sufficient extra points to secure a desired grade

VI. Class Policies

1. Attendance and Participation

Your attendance, attention, and participation are expected for all class sessions for the entire class period. Students are expected to demonstrate respect for others, be willing to share ideas and opinions, and participate in class exercises. Please turn off cell phone ringers and refrain from text messaging and other non-class activities during the class period. If a student needs to miss class, notification is required in advance.

2. Scholastic Dishonesty

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, the student may refer to the Web Site of the Student Judicial Services, Office of the Dean of Students (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/academicintegrity.html).

3. Accommodations for Students with Learning Challenges

Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who need academic accommodations are required to discuss and resolve special needs with the instructor within the first two weeks of semester. The student is also highly encouraged to contact the Services for Students with Disabilities in the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

4. Safety

Students should notify the instructor regarding any safety concerns.

VII. Course Schedule

#	DATE	DAY	CHAPTER	TOPIC	HOMEWORK DUE DATE
1	08/29	Wed		Introduction, Why Statistics?	
--	*09/03*	*Mon*		*Labor Day – No Class*	
2	09/05	Wed	Ch. 1	What and why of statistics	
3	09/10	Mon	Ch. 2	Organization of information	
4	09/12	Wed	Ch. 3	Graphical presentation	
5	09/17	Mon	Ch. 4	Measure of central tendency	Homework 01 (organization, graphical)
6	09/19	Wed	Ch. 5	Measure of variability	
7	09/24	Mon		Exam Review	Homework 02 (central tendency, measures of variability)
8	**09/26**	**WED**		**EXAM I**	
9	10/01	Mon	Ch. 6	Relationship between two variables (cross tabulation)	
10	10/03	Wed	Ch. 6	Relationship between two variables (elaboration)	
11	10/08	Mon	Ch. 7	Lambda	
12	10/10	Wed	Ch. 7	Gamma	Homework 03 (relationships, lambda, gamma)
13	10/15	Mon	Ch. 8	Correlation	
14	10/17	Wed	Ch. 8	Regression	
15	10/22	Mon		Exam Review	Homework 04 (correlation, regression)
16	**10/24**	**WED**		**EXAM II**	
17	10/29	Mon	Ch. 9	Normal distribution	
18	10/31	Wed	Ch. 9	Normal distribution	
19	11/05	Mon	Ch. 10	Sampling and sampling distributions	Homework 05 (normal distribution)

20	11/07	Wed	Ch. 11	Estimation	
21	11/12	Mon	Ch. 12	Testing hypotheses	
22	11/14	Wed	Ch. 13	CHI-square	Homework 06 (estimation, testing hypotheses)
23	11/19	Mon	Ch. 14	ANOVA	
--	*11/21*	*Wed*		*Library / Study Day – No Class*	
24	11/26	Mon		Exam Review	Homework 07 (CHI / ANOVA)
25	**11/28**	**WED**		**EXAM III**	
26	12/03	Mon		Stats in the "Real World"	
27	12/05	Wed		Course Review for Final	
28	**12/??**	**TBD**		**CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM**	