

**LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology 3311 WA
Research Techniques & Data Analysis**

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 12:00-1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Classes: AT 3003, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Texts:

Healey, J.F. & Steven G. Prus. 2010. Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, First Canadian Edition. Toronto, ON: Nelson Education Ltd.

Course Description:

Sociology 3311 WA is the second part of the previous sociology 3309 YA (a full year course) designed to provide students with a preliminary understanding of the skills and knowledge required to carry out quantitative data analysis. It includes the organization and presentation of data, measures of central tendency, measures of variability, percentiles and z-scores, the normal distribution, random sampling distributions, probability, and statistical inference. Computer techniques are limited to the creation of data files and statistical analysis using SPSS.

Students are expected to understand simple mathematical procedures and to own a calculator that has the capacity to perform square roots. Calculators and textbooks should be brought to all statistics classes.

Courses requirements:

Class participation

Participation includes asking questions, answering questions, discussing links to other things, and thinking about implications. It is important to come to class with some notes and reflections on the material. For each class, the instructor will take notes of the quality and quantity of participation of each student, and the extent to which this participation is based on the text having read in advance. The class participation accounts 10% of the final grade.

Assignments

An emphasis will be on the application of the many concepts and techniques covered in class and through the required readings in the textbooks. Through a series of 3 assignments accounting for 10% each of the final grade, students will have an opportunity to apply what they have learned and subsequently obtain some feedback. Each assignment will be marked and returned, some will be discussed in class, and students can always meet with the instructor to discuss possible difficulties or concerns.

In submitting all assignments, no “faxed” copies will be accepted. All 3 assignments must be typed (10 cpi or maximum 300 words per page), double-spaced, on 8 ½ X 11 paper, stapled (no paper clips or plastic covering or binders), and handed in personally in class (or if late, to me personally). No assignments are to be handed in at the main office in the Sociology Department (they do not accept them) nor do I want assignments slipped under my office door (the cleaning staff has been known to dispose of them!!!).

Homework

Besides the above assignments, there are 6 homework questions. The homework questions are for practice only and I will not mark them. However, these questions will help you understand what you learn in class and solve the research issues in reality. Therefore, it is very important to spend time on these questions and make sure you know how to answer them. If you do not know how to solve any of these questions, please let me know as soon as possible.

Short tests

There will be 2 short tests throughout the term. They will contain multiple choice and possibly short answer questions. These tests will be held in the regular classroom during class. The material covered between tests will be the major focus of each test, although the exact details will be specified clearly in class well before each test. **THE TWO TESTS WILL BE WORTH 30% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE.**

Final Examination

The final examination will be scheduled during the final exam period. It will be 4 hours in length and may have multiple choice, short answer problems and major problems. Students are responsible for the entire statistics portion of the course for the final examination. The final exam accounts for 30% of the final grade.

THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR MAKE-UP TESTS OR EXAMINATION. FOR AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A TEST OR EXAM, A ZERO WILL BE RECORDED. IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS TO ALL STUDENTS, AND IN PARTICULAR, TO THOSE THAT ADHERE TO THESE GUIDELINES, NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

IF YOU CANNOT TAKE A TEST OR EXAM (DUE TO ILLNESS) ON THE DAY IT IS SCHEDULED, YOU MUST CONTACT ME BEFORE THE TEST OR EXAM (IN PERSON, BY PHONE OR BY EMAIL).

Distribution of Grades

Class participation	10%
2 tests	30%
3 assignments	30%
Final exam	30%

Outline and schedule (the following schedule may be modified slightly throughout the term)

September 13	Introduction and Basic Math Operation
September 15 & 20	Healey Chapter 1 & 2 Introduction and Basic Descriptive Statistics
September 22 & 27	Healey Chapter 3 Measures of Central Tendency <i>Assignment #1 (Due Oct. 4)</i>
Sept. 29 & Oct. 4	Healey Chapter 4 Measures of Dispersion Homework Questions 1
October 6	Healey Chapter 5 The Normal Curve
October 11	Healey Chapter 6 Inferential Statistics Homework Questions 2
October 13	Healey Chapter 7 Inferential Statistics (continued)
October 18	<i>Test # 1</i>
October 20	Healey Chapter 8 Hypothesis Testing <i>Assignment #2 (Due Nov. 1)</i>
October 25	Healey Chapter 8 (continued)
October 27	Healey Chapter 9 Hypothesis Testing Homework Questions 3
November 1	Healey Chapter 10 Hypothesis Testing Homework Questions 4
November 3	Healey Chapter 10 Hypothesis Testing (continued)
November 8	Healey Chapter 11 Hypothesis Testing
November 10	Healey Chapter 12, 13 Nominal Measures of Association Homework Questions 5
November 15	<i>Test # 2</i>
November 17 & 22	Healey Chapter 14 Ordinal Measures of Association <i>Assignment #3 (Due Dec. 1)</i>
November 24 & 29	Healey Chapter 15 Interval Ratio Measures Homework Questions 6
December 1	REVIEW

NB. The dates for class coverage of topics are only best approximations.