

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCI-4317/5112-FA/FDE: Quantitative Methods/Quantitative Sociology

Professor:

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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 9:00 AM-4:00 PM via email

Classes: Friday, 8:30AM-11:30AM, RB-2006

Course Description:

Sociology 4317/5112 WA is a half year course designed to provide students with a preliminary understanding of the skills and knowledge required to do multivariate analysis. Social phenomenon is complex in nature and can rarely be explained by one variable. Classical methods that try to explain social phenomena by analyzing just one variable at a time are inappropriate in most circumstances. A multivariate approach that considers many variables simultaneously leads to greater insight and better understanding of the complex social phenomena.

This course will cover a series of multivariate techniques that are useful for analyzing social phenomena. Emphasis will be on extracting quantitative information out of existing data sets; selecting correct analytical tools; and paying special attention to the assumptions underlying those tools. The statistics software used for data analysis is SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences). Therefore, this course will train students how to use SPSS to analyze survey data and to interpret the results correctly.

Text

No specific textbook is required for this course. You should attend each class and try to understand my lecture (the class notes). I recommend you read some of the following books after class, if you have time and want to understand more details such as the underlying mathematical procedure (I will put all of them on reserves in the Library):

1. Agresti, Alan and B. Finlay, 1997. *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences*, 3rd or latest edition. Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall.
2. Healey, J.F. 2005. Statistics: A Tool for Social Research. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
3. Achen, C.H.1983. Interpreting and Using Regression. Beverly Hills, California: SAGE publications.
4. Reynolds, H.T. 1988. Analysis of Nominal Data. Beverly Hills, California: SAGE publications.

5. Hildebrand, K. David, James D. Laing, and Howard Rosenthal. Analysis of Ordinal Data. Beverly Hills, California: SAGE publications.
6. Kim, Jae-On and C.W. Mueller. 1988. Factor Analysis: Statistical Methods and Practical Issues. Beverly Hills, California: SAGE publications.
7. Allison, D. Paul. 1984. Event History Analysis: Regression for Longitudinal Event Data. Beverly Hills, California: SAGE publications.
8. Puri, K. Basant. 2002. SPSS in Practice: An Illustrated Guide. New York, NY: Arnold.

Courses requirements:

1. Assignments:

An emphasis will be on the application of the many concepts and techniques covered in class. Through a series of 3 assignments, 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.

The three assignments will carry a total of 45% of your final grade (15% each). Assignments should be submitted on or before due date. If you have a valid reason prevents you from submitting an assignment on the due date, please inform me in advance.

2. Term paper:

You are required to write a term paper which involves multivariate data analysis. IT IS WORTH 25% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE. This paper should include a short introduction about what you are going to write, a brief literature review, data and method, findings, and conclusion. The length of the paper should not be more than 15 pages and the core of the paper is to apply techniques learned in class in data analysis. That is, based on the data set used for your project, you should choose appropriate method to analyze your data.

3. Final Examination:

The final examination during the December exam period will carry 30% of your final grade. It will be 3 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. It is advisable that you bring a calculator to the exam, just in case of technical problems

Distribution of Grades:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 3 assignments | 45% |
| Term paper | 25% |
| Final Examination | 30% |

Specific issues with online activities

(1) Copyright Compliance:

I understand and agree that all instructional, reference, and administrative materials to which I am given access in this course (the "course materials"), whether they consist of text, still or kinetic images, or sound, whether they are in digital or hard copy formats, and in whatever media they are offered, are protected in their entirety by copyright, and that to comply with this copyright and the law.

(1) I may access and download the course materials only for my own personal and non-commercial use for this course; and

(2) I am not permitted to download, copy, store (in any medium), forward or share, transmit, broadcast, show, post or play in public, adapt, or change in any way any text, image, or sound component of the course materials for any other purpose whatsoever except as expressly authorized, and only to the extent authorized, in writing, by the course instructor.

I further understand and agree that, if I infringe the copyright of the course materials in any way, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

(2) Exam/Assignment Integrity:

I understand and agree that:

(1) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must complete the assignments in this course without the assistance of anyone else.

(2) Unless otherwise allowed by the course instructor, I must not access any sources or materials (in print, online, or in any other way) to complete any course exam.

I further understand and agree that, if I violate either of these two rules, or if I provide any false or misleading information about my completion of course assignments or exams, I may be prosecuted under the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity, which requires students to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and to demonstrate behaviours that support the University's academic values.

Student Health and Wellness Launches New Resources to Support Mental Health

Thunder Bay

We are all experiencing a wide range of emotions as we near the fall semester- nervous, excited, anxious and everything in between.

Some of our students will struggle with their mental health as they adjust to our new modes of delivery and the ever-changing public health guidelines that will exist on our campuses.

Student Health and Wellness wants to be proactive in encouraging students to access support and we invite all Lakehead staff and faculty to work with us in reducing the stigma surrounding mental health concerns.

These resources are simple to use but can lead to a culture on campus where students seek help when it is needed. In addition to the following statements generated for staff and faculty members to consider using, Student Health and Wellness will continue to offer monthly [Students in Distress training sessions](#).

Course outline

| DATE | TOPIC |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 10 | Introduction and review of SOCI 3311: Level of measurement (Neuman chapter 7) Measures of central tendency (Healey chapter 3) Measures of dispersion (Healey chapter 4) Shapes of distributions (Healey chapter 5) |
| September 17 | Statistics significance (Healey chapter 6-11) Chi-square test and ANOVA |
| September 24 | Measure of bivariate associations (Healey chapter 12-15) Time dimension in research Causality Simple regression Underlying assumptions Assignment 1 (Due on Oct. 8) |
| October 1 | Introduction to multivariate relationship (Agresti & Finlay chapter 10-12) Type of multivariate relationships Multivariate regression Qualitative variables in regression Interaction effects in regression |
| October 8 | ANOVA in regression (Agresti & Finlay chapter 13), Two-way ANOVA and Regression and ANCOVA |
| October 11-15 | Reading Week |
| October 22 | Analysis of Nominal Data: Logistic regression (Reynolds, H.T. and Agresti & Finlay chapter 15) Assignment # 2 (Due on Nov. 5) |
| October 29 | Event history analysis (Paul D. Allison and Agresti & Finlay chapter 16) |
| November 5 | Problems of Multicollinearity (Agresti & Finlay chapter 14) Factor analysis (Agresti & Finlay chapter 16) |
| November 12 | Analysis of Ordinal Data (Hildebrand, Laing, and Rosenthal) Assignment # 3 (Due on Nov. 26) |
| November 19 | Mediation and Path Analysis |
| November 26 | Moderation |
| December 3 | Multilevel model |

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