Sociology 3311 WA
Research Techniques & Data Analysis
Dr. Jianye Liu

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Office Hours: *Tuesday & Thursday,* **12:00-1:00 p.m. or by appointment**
Classes: **AT-3002,**   *Monday & Wednesday*, **11:30AM-01:00PM**

Texts:

Haan, Michael. 2013. An Introduction to Statistics: for Canadian Social Scientists (2nd Edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press Canada.

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.

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 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. The final exam accounts for 30% of the final grade.

THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR MAKE-UP TESTS OR EXAMINATION. FOR AN <u>UNEXCUSED ABSENCE</u> 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)

January 6	Introduction
January 8	Chapter 1 & 2
January 13	Chapter 3
January 15	Chapter 4
January 20	Chapter 5
January 22 & 27	Chapter 6
January 29	Chapter 7
	Assignment #1 (Due Feb.12)
February 3	Chapter 8
February 5	*Test # 1*
February 10 & 12	Chapter 9
February 17-21	Study break
February 24 & 26	Chapter 10
	Assignment #2 (Due March 3)
March 3	Chapter 11
March 5	*Test # 2*
March 10	Chapter 12
March 12	Chapter 13
March 17	Chapter 14
March 19 & 24	Chapter 15
	Assignment #3 (Due April 10)
March 26 & 31	Chapter 16
April 2	REVIEW

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