



# EDAD 7324: Dissertation I

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Spring 2020

## 1 Contact Information

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**Office Location:** Wells 140

**Office Hours:** MW: 8:00–11:30 AM; TR: 8:00–9:30 AM, and by appointment

### 1.1 Description

This course is designed to introduce students to advanced quantitative statistical techniques and procedures used by applied researchers in the educational and social sciences. As a result, emphasis will be placed on intermediary and advanced procedures involved in organizing and presenting data, as well as selecting, running, and interpreting various parametric statistical tests. Students will utilize the SPSS statistical software application to conduct and interpret both descriptive and inferential statistics. Students completing this course will acquire the skills necessary to both conduct and interpret statistical analyses in educational and social science settings.

### 1.2 Meeting

**Dates:**

Students enrolled in EDAD 7324: Dissertation I will meet together a total of four times throughout the Spring 2020 semester between 8:00 AM–5:30 PM. A fifth and final session is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2020. During this session students will complete the oral portion of their qualifying exams. As the semester progresses, more details will be provided.

1. Friday, January 10, 2020, PAC 214
2. Friday, January 31, 2020, PAC 214
3. Friday, February 21, 2020, PAC 214
4. Friday, March 20, 2020, PAC 214
5. **Saturday, April 18, 2020 (oral qualifying exam), PAC TBD**

**Course Website:** [myCourses](#)

### 1.3 Advanced Academic Activity

Doctoral courses contain appropriate advanced academic activity reflected in the areas of content, process, and product. The advanced activity is facilitated through the dimension of critical thinking, synthesis and integration of materials, depth of engagement of materials, and contribution to scholarship. The purpose of advanced academic activity is to demonstrate a higher level of sophistication and to emphasize separation from masters level courses.

### 1.4 Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand basic and intermediate-advanced principles of statistics needed to both consume and conduct educational and social science research.
2. Communicate and present statistical ideas clearly in oral and written forms using appropriate technical terms and deliver data analysis results sufficient for both a technical and non-technical audience.

### 1.5 Student Learning Objectives

Upon completion of all course modules, you should be able to:

#### 1. Module 1: A Gentle Introduction to Advanced Statistics in Research

1. Define the standard normal distribution and compute the standard normal transformation.
2. Understand the relationship between scores in a normal distribution and their respective probability value.
3. Understand and synthesize the concepts of statistical significance and effect size.

#### 2. Module 2: Exploring and Assessing Relationships Between Variables

1. Identify the direction and strength of both linear and non-linear correlations.
2. Compute and interpret linear and non-linear correlation coefficients using SPSS.
3. Summarize visually and verbally the results of linear and non-linear correlation coefficients.

#### 3. Module 3: Basic and Advanced Concepts in Predictive Modeling

1. Identify occasions when a predictive model is preferred, over others, in educational and social science research.
2. Compute and interpret the slope, intercept, and response variable(s) in both simple and multiple linear regression models using SPSS.
3. Summarize visually and verbally the results of both simple and multiple linear regression models.

#### 4. Module 4: Making Advanced Statistical Inferences Between and Within Groups

1. Identify occasions when either between- and within-groups designs are preferred, over others, in educational and social science research.
2. Identify statistical assumptions for both one-way and factorial between- and within-groups designs.
3. Compute and interpret results of main effects, interaction effects, and post-hoc tests in both one-way and factorial between- and within-groups designs using SPSS.
4. Summarize visually and verbally the results of both one-way and factorial between- and within-groups designs.

### 1.6 Credit Hour(s)

For online, hybrid, and other nontraditional modes of delivery, credit hours are assigned based on learning outcomes that are equivalent to those in a traditional course setting; forty-five (45) hours of work by a typical student for each hour of credit.

### 1.7 Readings

Students are required to obtain a copy of the following required textbook.

Hatcher, L. (2013). *Advanced statistics in research: Reading, understanding, and writing up data analysis results*. Shadow Finch Media, LLC.

All other assigned readings will be provided on the [course website](#) under the [Readings](#) tab.

## 1.8 Required Software

All data and statistical analyses in EDAD 7324 will be conducted using IBM® SPSS® Statistics. During class meetings, students may access local SPSS® installations on campus computers. However, you should strongly consider purchasing at least a 6-month license to download and install SPSS® on your own computer(s). Below are a few online educational software retailers who offer heavily discounted versions of IBM® SPSS® Statistics for students.

*Note:* As of August 9, 2020, the latest version number is 26. However, versions 23, 24, and 25 should also be compatible for all data analyses conducted throughout this course. Keep in mind previous versions sell for the same price as the current version. Prior to purchasing SPSS® be sure you are selecting the versions compatible with your particular computer's operating system (i.e., Windows, macOS, etc.). IBM® SPSS® Statistics is not compatible with iOS, iPadOS, or Chrome OS.

### How to purchase SSPS:

1. [OnTheHub](#)
  1. Select **Students buy now**.
  2. Select your operating system using the dropdown menu under **Choose a platform**.
  3. Select either 06- or 12-month licenses.
2. [JourneyEd](#)
  1. Scroll to approximately one-third of the way down the page and look for **IBM SPSS Statistics Standard Grad Pack 26.0 Academic**.
  2. Select the link applicable to your operating system.
  3. Note: only 12-month licenses are available from JourneyEd.

## 1.9 Academic Integrity

UMHB's policy on Classroom Expectations and Ethics will be strictly upheld in this course. If you have not read it and all subsequent sections, it is your responsibility to do so. You may find it online here: [Classroom Expectations and Ethics](#). The omnibus policy outlines University requirements concerning Christian citizenship, students' responsibilities, class attendance, academic decorum, and academic integrity.

## 1.10 Disabled Student Services and Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request disability accommodations. Students requesting an accommodation for a disability, must contact the UMHB [Counseling, Testing & Health Services](#) as early as possible in the term. [The Course Catalog](#), [Student Handbook](#) and [UMHB website](#) provide more details regarding the process by which accommodation requests will be reviewed.

For more information, please contact:

### Blayne Alaniz, Director of Student Disability Services and Testing Services

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 Belton, Texas 76513  
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## 1.11 Course Structure

All assignments and other coursework are completed individually. However, during and between certain class meetings you may either be assigned to or asked to form small groups in order to collaborate on data analysis projects and/or presentation(s). You will be guided through the following course learning modules. See Section 1.5 for corresponding student learning outcomes per learning module.

### 1.11.1 Learning Modules

EDAD 7324 is divided into four (4) learning modules:

1. A Gentle Introduction to Advanced Statistics in Research
2. Exploring and Assessing Relationships Between Variables
3. Basic and Advanced Concepts in Predictive Modeling
4. Making Advanced Statistical Inferences Between and Within Groups

## 1.12 Course Communication

### 1.12.1 Email

Most all course communication outside of class will take place via email. I will routinely email you course updates and announcements to your UMHB-assigned email address. Thus, you should check your email frequently. Likewise, due to the nature of this class and the corresponding assignments, you will likely need to contact me with questions. I am committed to responding as quickly as possible to your questions via email. As a result, you can expect me to respond, on average, within several hours of your email—often sooner. However, in some circumstances, a personal visit during office hours or other scheduled appointment may be more efficient than email. You are welcome to call me on my office line: (254) 295-4553. This can be an even more efficient method for quick troubleshooting inquiries.

### 1.12.2 Remind

There may be occasions when alerting you to course-related updates may be most effective in real-time. In these situations, I will communicate with you through a free, safe, and one-way messaging service called Remind. To sign up for these alerts, text @edad7324 to 81010 and follow the instructions. If you have trouble with this method, try texting @edad7324 to (254) 296-8301. Additionally, although not likely, there may be extenuating circumstances which require me to delay and/or cancel a class or other meeting.

### 1.12.3 Video Conferencing

Considering the nontraditional format of the Doctor of Education program there may be several occasions on which it may be more effective for the instructor and student(s) to meet between class sessions via video conferencing software. As these instances occur, the instructor will coordinate with the student(s) regarding scheduling and setup logistics.

## 2 Course Requirements

### 2.1 Individual and Team Assignments

#### 2.1.1 Journal Article Critique

The purpose of this assignment is to read and examine critically all sections of a peer-reviewed journal article. As a student of educational research, it is imperative that you gain familiarity and comfort with the structure/purpose of the scientific literature. *A detailed submission template and grading rubric will be provided.*

For each critique, you will select one quantitative research article published within the last five years in a peer-reviewed journal. You are free to select any article from any reputable, peer-reviewed journal under the following conditions:

1. The topic of research and theoretical framework are *unrelated* to your dissertation.<sup>1</sup>
2. However, the author(s) utilized quantitative methodology similar to or identical to that of your own planned research, as you currently understand it.

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<sup>1</sup>The purpose of forcing you to branch outside of your own topic/theoretical framework is to allow you to, hopefully, experience different approaches to your own planned quantitative methodology. For example, various disciplines use a variety of nomenclature to describe the elements of research methods and design. Assume you have committed to learning how to play classical piano. All you listen to, practice, and perform are arrangements from the classical greats. However, imagine the perspective you might gain by listening to a jazz pianist improvise? The point is to expose you to various ways in which your methodology is implemented in other "genres" of research outside of your own. The more familiar you can be with your methodology now, the better off you will be both during your oral qualifying exam as well as your dissertation proposal presentation.

Journal article critiques are due on the following dates:

1. Sunday, February 09, 2020
2. Sunday, March 29, 2020

### 2.1.2 Special Topics Team Presentation

This assignment consists of pairs of students presenting one or more special topics from a section(s) of a single chapter from the textbook. Teams should prepare a thorough lecture with accompanying slides, handouts, etc. You should use no fewer than three additional academic resources, not counting the textbook, to supplement your presentation. Lectures should be organized, rigorous, and comprehensive. You should assume the burden of responsibility for providing your peers everything you can in order to ensure they have as complete an understanding about your assigned topic(s) as you and your partner. They will do the same. *A detailed submission template and grading rubric will be provided.*

Team numbers and student pairs were generated using a random sampling permutation method. Based on the team number, chapter assignments and dates were implemented by the instructor.

Table 1: Special Topics Team Presentation Dates

Team	Students	Topics	Presentation Date
1	Wendy Gamble Carmen Lewis	Chapter 6	Friday, January 31, 2020
2	John Bate Autumn Leal-Shopp Kemi Okafor	Chapter 7	Friday, January 31, 2020
3	Lyndsa Benton Mia Hall Andrea Lail	Chapter 8	Friday, January 31, 2020
4	Dahlia Berwise Mike McCarthy Dottie Jones	Chapter 9	Friday, February 21, 2020

### 2.1.3 Individual Data Analysis Lab Assignments

Individual lab assignments will feature a series of guided, application-based, statistical analysis prompts that you will complete using IBM® SPSS® Statistics. These assignments require you to apply what you learn within each of the course modules. Each lab assignment will include a detailed set of directions available on the course website. Additionally, you will be provided a skeleton-like lab report template for each of the lab assignments. More details on completing the lab assignments will be provided in class. Table 2 below contains the topic and due date for each lab assignment. *Note:* These are individual assignments. All elements of the academic integrity policy will be upheld.

Table 2: Individual Lab Assignment Dates

Topic	Due
1. Exploring and Assessing Relationships Between Variables	02-16-2020
2. Basic and Advanced Concepts in Predictive Modeling	03-08-2020
3. Making Advanced Statistical Inferences Between and Within Groups	04-05-2020

### 2.1.4 Chapter 3 in a Nutshell

Your culminating assignment/project in EDAD 7324 will be comprised of an abridged, rough sketch version of your dissertation's methods section (chapter 3). In chapter 3, you detail, in a sense, the who, what, when, where, and hows of your particular experiment, study, or project. In the case of a quantitative dissertation, this involves, at minimum:

1. details about your participants,
2. sampling procedures,
3. random assignment methods, (if applicable),
4. any materials used (e.g., instruments, software, questionnaires, etc.),
5. definitions and identification of all variables (e.g., independent vs. dependent; predictor vs. outcome; explanatory vs. response, etc.), and finally,
6. the statistical methods used in order to test hypotheses or make inferences.

I realize this assignment may feel a little daunting for some of you. Not to worry. Again, the more familiar you can be with your methodology now, the better off you will be both during your oral qualifying exam as well as your dissertation proposal presentation. This assignment will help prepare you for Saturday, April 18! *A detailed submission template and grading rubric will be provided.*

Chapter 3 in a Nutshell is due **Sunday, April 05, 2020.**

## 2.2 Grade Calculation

### 2.2.1 Individual and Team Performance

Table 3 below lists all assignments, their point value, and proportion of weighted total. See Table 4 for final grade calculation and letter grade distribution.

Table 3: Individual Assignments and Point Values

Assignment	<i>n</i>	Points	Total	Prop.
Journal Article Critiques	2 ×	100 =	200	.30
Special Topics Team Presentations	1 ×	100 =	100	.20
Individual Lab Assignments	3 ×	10 =	30	.20
Chapter 3 in a Nutshell	1 ×	100 =	100	.25
Attendance	5 ×	1 =	5	.05
<b>Individual Performance Total</b>			<b>= 435</b>	<b>1.00</b>

### 2.2.2 Final Grade Calculation

All course grades will be posted in the gradebook in myCourses. All point totals and proportional weights listed in Table 2 are reflected in myCourses. Thus, your current grade in myCourses should reflect your actual grade. Table 4 below describes the point range required to achieve a given letter grade.

Table 4: Final Grade Point Range Requirements

Grade	Point Range	Percentage	Grade Points
A	391.50 – 435.00	90 – 100	4.0
B	348.00 – 232.00	80 – 89	3.0
C	304.50 – 347.00	70 – 79	2.0
D	261.00 – 303.50	60 – 69	1.0
F	000.00 – 260.00	00 – 59	0.0

## 3 Policies

### 3.1 Attendance

Your regular attendance and participation in this course is expected. I will record and maintain attendance records for each student. Attendance is worth 5% of your final grade. In other words, if you attend 050% of the scheduled class

meetings you will earn the complete 5% attendance total. Any University- or otherwise-excused absence will not count toward this total. At the conclusion of the semester, the percentage of class meetings you attended will be multiplied by 0.05 to obtain your attendance grade.

### 3.2 Late Work

All assignments are considered late if submitted after the date and time specified in the syllabus and/or course website. This policy will be enforced in the event that assignment deadlines are revised during the course of the term. Assignments submitted late will result in a penalty of 20 percentage points per day.\

For example, if an assignment is due on March 22, 2020 and is submitted within 24 hours of the due date and time that assignment will result in an automatic deduction of 20 percentage points from the assignment raw score. In other words, if you submit an assignment worth 10 points on March 23, 2020, and the assignment was originally due March 22, 2020, and you score a 9.5/10, then your new score would be:

$$9.5 - (9.5)(0.20) \times 100 = 7.6. \quad (1)$$

Assignments submitted more than five calendar days late will receive a grade of zero. To ensure fairness, this policy will be strictly enforced. Exceptions are made at the discretion of the instructor and may include, but are not limited to:

1. Death in the immediate family (parent, spouse, sibling, child)
2. Unforeseeable medical emergency affecting yourself, your spouse, or your child (e.g., automobile accident, major sickness, et al.).
3. Participation in an official UMHB-sponsored event

*Note:* Routine medical appointments or clinical visits related to minor illnesses do not qualify as an unforeseeable medical emergency. Likewise, conflicts with a work schedule or trips not related to official UMHB events do not qualify for assignment absolution.

## 4 Disclaimer

Syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion.

## 5 Course Calendar

Module	Week	Date	Topic	Reading
A Gentle Introduction to Advanced Statistics in Research	1	Friday, January 10, 2020	Central Tendency, Variability, and Descriptive Statistics	Ch. 03
			Z-Scores and the Area Under the Normal Curve	Ch. 04
			Statistical Significance, Confidence Intervals, and Effect Size	Ch. 05
Exploring and Assessing Relationships Between Variables	2	Friday, January 31, 2020	Bivariate Correlation	Ch. 06
			Bivariate Regression	Ch. 07
			Partial Correlation and Statistical Control	Ch. 08
Basic and Advanced Concepts in Predictive Modeling	3	Friday, February 21, 2020	Multiple Regression I: Basic Concepts	Ch. 09
			Multiple Regression II: Advanced Concepts	Ch. 10
Making Advanced Statistical Inferences Between and Within Groups	4	Friday, March 20, 2020	Analyses of Variance (ANOVA) and Multivariate Analyses of Variance (MANOVA)	Ch. 13
			Analyses of Covariance (ANCOVA)	Ch. 14
—	5	Saturday, April 18, 2020	Oral Qualifying Exam	—



## 6 Calendar of Due Dates

Month	Date	Due
January	Friday, January 31, 2020	Team 1 Presentation
	Friday, January 31, 2020	Team 2 Presentation
	Friday, January 31, 2020	Team 3 Presentation
February	Sunday, February 09, 2020	Article Critique #1
	Sunday, February 16, 2020	Lab 01
	Friday, February 21, 2020	Team 4 Presentation
March	Sunday, March 08, 2020	Lab 02
	Sunday March 29, 2020	Article Critique #2
April	Sunday, April 05, 2020	Lab 03
	Sunday, April 05, 2020	Chapter 3 in a Nutshell