California State University Fullerton
Sociology 303 – 03 15668
Sociology 303 – 85 16584

Instructor: Sherri Ann Verdugo, M.S.
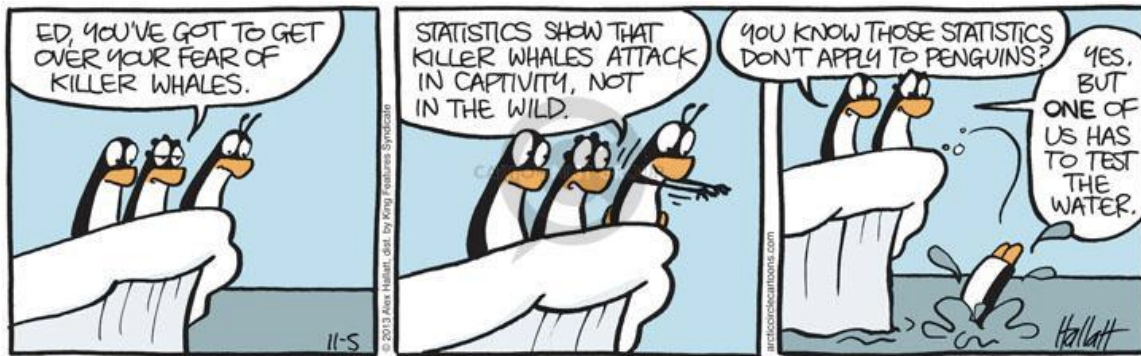Class days & time 15668: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:45pm
Class days & time 16584: Friday 1:00 – 3:45pm

Fullerton

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Irvine

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Classroom Building:	Classroom: IRVC-203

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Required book and materials:

1. The primary textbook is listed below in the table. We will occasionally use other sources for our classroom material, but this is the textbook that will contain all of your assignments and testing material.

Textbook Options:	Required
ISBN:	9781412905466
Book Title:	Statistics for the social sciences
Author:	R. Mark Sirkin.
Publisher:	Thousand Oaks, Calif. : Sage Publications, 2006
Edition:	3rd ed.

2. Calculator. A basic scientific calculator (traditional, app, or smart phone) with a square root function should be sufficient. You do not need to purchase a graphing calculator.

3. This class assumes you possess basic computer familiarity. This course will make extensive use of: MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint), SPSS 21 (a statistical package designed for statistical analysis). A major component of this class is learning some basic skills regarding statistical computation and interpretation using SPSS. SPSS is provided on the computers in the classroom and the computer labs on campus are equipped with the latest version of SPSS. If you need to access SPSS at home to complete work, instructions will be provided later in the course to allow you access to computer programs at school. **THERE IS NO NEED TO PURCHASE OR RENT SPSS IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SPEND SOME ADDITIONAL TIME ON CAMPUS OR USE THE REMOTE LOGIN FEATURE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS.**

Pre-requisites and Course Description:

Pre-requisites: completion of General Education Categories B.4 and D.1.

The techniques for elementary statistical analysis of social data. Description and inferential measures includes but are not limited to: descriptive statistical techniques, inferential methods (chi-square, analysis of variance, contingency table analysis, linear regression), and other techniques routinely used by today's statisticians.

General Education learning Goals and Writing Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirement of B.5 "Implications and Explorations in Mathematics and Natural Sciences" (UPS 411.201). The following learning goals of the General Education category B.5 are met by this course:
  a) Integrate themes in mathematics and/or science from cross-disciplinary perspectives.
  b) Solve complex problems that require mathematical and/or scientific reasoning.
  c) Relate mathematics and/or science to significant social problems or to other related disciplines.
  d) When deemed appropriate, apply disciplinary concepts from mathematics and the Natural Sciences in a variety of settings, such as community based learning sites and activities.
  e) The General Education writing requirement will be met through the writing assignments as well as some exam questions, which require writing to explain and interpret statistical results.

Sociology Learning Goals and Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

The following goals and learning outcomes have been established for students pursuing a degree in Sociology:

  1) Sociological Perspective

Define and apply the basic concepts of sociology including: culture, status, roles, norms, institutions, social class, race, gender and inequality

2) **Research Methods**
Understand the design of research, including sampling, measurement and data collection, construct a sampling design illustrating the principles of random selection and stratification, identify possible measures of concepts, distinguish between reliability and validity, identify strengths and weaknesses of alternative methods of data collection.

3) **Data Analysis and Computer Competency**
Understand both quantitative and qualitative analysis of data, present statistical information about one or more variables in order to generalize about population parameters using sample statistics, use qualitative data in generating and testing a theory, write a research report using both quantitative and qualitative data.

4) **Skills**
Think critically, identify the structure of an argument presented in oral or written format, identify any weaknesses in the structure of an argument, its background, assumptions and its evidence, and identify basic fallacies in reasoning.

Course Objectives:

The overall goal of the course is to increase your understanding of the meaning of statistical information and your ability to communicate with numbers. This course provides a basic introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics as used in social science research. Students will learn to calculate basic statistics by hand and with SPSS, and to interpret the results of these analyses. We will cover different ways of summarizing and analyzing data and how to present the results in a compelling, accurate, and professional manner. Students will have the opportunity to investigate their own research question and hypothesis format to present the results in a written report via writing assignments throughout the class.

At the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1) Understand the basic connection between problem identification, data collection, and statistical analysis.
2) Identify different types of variables and the techniques appropriate for different types of variables.
3) Compute and interpret basic descriptive statistics, as well as generate figures and/or tables so that they may interpret them in writing.
4) Apply the logic and methodology of hypothesis testing.
5) Calculate statistical tests for nominal, ordinal, and continuous variables including but not limited to: correlations, confidence intervals, ANOVA, Chi-square, and linear regression.
6) Interpret the statistical tests learned over the duration of the course.
7) Use statistics to help better understand sociological phenomenon

Course Policies:

Attendance/Tardiness	Absences and tardiness (especially excessive ones) are disrespectful and will not be tolerated. We have all had emergencies come up and I understand that those things may be beyond our control. I will accept documented medical issues and excuse those items. While they will not count as a full absence or tardy, I will weight that event so that it does not fully impact your overall performance in the classroom. Should you require assistance and or need to talk, please visit me during office hours or email me sverdugo@fullerton.edu .
Course Website Requirements	Students must complete the following steps to obtain access to the course website on Titanium: 1) Connection to the Internet 2) Use Firefox, Chrome, Safari, or IE 3) Go to: http://my.fullerton.edu 4) Login to the student portal using your username and password 5) Click on the Titanium tab in the upper menu 6) Scroll down until you find our course and then click on the tab 7) You should see the landing page for the course 8) Questions should be emailed to me in the event that you do not see the course
Titanium	There is a Titanium site for this class and you should check/visit it often (three times a week). Here you will find the syllabus, announcements, assignments, and other materials that you will need to do well in this class. I will also use the site to email you – the site uses your official Fullerton student email so be sure to check that account regularly (I recommend three times a day).
Email	University policy requires that student check their university email routinely. **IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CHECK YOUR CSU EMAIL AND TITANIUM CLASS SITE REGULARLY** for this class as it is my primary means of communication with you outside of

	class.
Makeup	Make-up exams will be permitted only when an acceptable documentation is provided for an emergency. Make-up will be offered at a time and format convenient to the instructor and with consideration for the student.
Late Assignments	Assignments that are late are subject to a late penalty fee. I will discuss this with you when we go over the general assignment schedule. Some items are set to a University schedule (final exams) and cannot be altered. Please see me if you have any questions.
Extra Credit	Occasionally, I may offer extra credit during the course of the semester. Extra credit will be made available to all students in the class. There is no extra credit given to just one student who misses class or assignments. In addition, no make-ups will be allowed for extra credit.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

Academic Dishonesty	Students who violate university standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions which may include failure in the course and/or suspension from the university. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the university, policies on academic integrity are STRICTLY enforced. I expect that you will familiarize yourself with the academic integrity guidelines found in the current student handbook: See: http://www.fullerton.edu/senate/documents/PDF/300/UPS300-021.pdf for more information. In addition, researchers and statisticians have a career rooted in academic integrity. We will dedicate some time to this special topic because it does have real life applications.
Plagiarism	Plagiarism is defined as an act that you engage in any time you use the words or thoughts of another person in terms of your work without citing their work. This includes copying passages, phrases, and significant terms without properly citing the

	author(s) or without including quotation marks around text lifted from an article, book, a web page, a PowerPoint lecture, or any other person's writing. **PLAGIARISM ALSO INCLUDES CLOSE PARAPHRASING**. You will be engaging in plagiarism if you present an idea from someone else as if it is your own original thought. Class requirements include using CORRECT CITATION AND REFERENCING FORMATS WRITTEN IN THEIR WRITING. I prefer the APA format for written documentation and will discuss other acceptable formats as the class progresses.
Disabled Students Services	**If you have a disability, please let me know immediately so we can make the necessary arrangements.** Students registered with Disabled Student Services have rights to accommodations for documented special needs. Please refer to the Disabled Student Services website: http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS/ for more information.
Emergencies	Students should be familiar with the University policies in the event of an emergency. Please refer to the university website: http://prepare.fullerton.edu/ for more information.
Online Student Support	http://www.fullerton.edu/it/help/ If students are having problems with their Web Browser, Internet Connections, or accessing the features on Titanium, they should call the Help Desk. Help Desk: 657.278.7777

Course Enrollment and Drops:

Please make sure that you familiarize yourself with enrollment and drop procedures. It is your responsibility as a student to make sure you are enrolled in the class. If you drop the class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are dropped through Admissions and Records; otherwise you may receive a WU or F grade for the course. **This is important please check on this if it pertains to you**.
Student Conduct, Etiquette, and Technology:

Students are responsible for regulating their own conduct and behavior to respect the rights and privileges of others. Students are expected to act professionally, respect and follow college policies, and abide by the principle that each person's voice and opinion is valid and respected. We will engage in debates in this class, and we will learn how to engage in informed debate while treating others with respect.

Personal Technology and Overview:

All personal cell phones, laptops, Ipads, smart devices, music devices/headphones, and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away when the class is in session. We will at points be learning how to deal with these technologies in the context of the class, and some points may require you to use these devices. Please be respectful when we are engaged in that portion of the course.

Assignments and Exams:

1. **Attendance is required. Excessive absences (missing more than 2 classes) will severely affect your final grade.**
2. **Participation is essential to the learning process. I encourage you to ask questions during lectures and to participate during the in class exercises.**
3. **Homework (these are in lieu of quizzes): there will be 5 assignments in the class. These are a method of gauging collective understanding of new material (SLO 1-4)**
4. **Exams: The exams will cover the readings, homework and in-class exercises. Each exam is designed as a teaching tool to evaluate your understanding of the material. I organized the class material into 4 Major sections. While the exams will not be cumulative, statics is an inherently cumulative subjection. You will be building on prior knowledge that you learn throughout this course and that will have an impact on your overall success in the class in general and for the exams (SLO 1-4)**
5. **Writing Assignment: Throughout the semester, you will be asked to apply your knowledge of statistics to a research question of your choice. This assignment requires you to conceptualize and develop a research question, generating hypotheses, and analyzing data to test these hypotheses. Data will be provided and you will have the opportunity to work on each component of the assignment in class, although you will need more additional time to complete this work outside of class time. (SLO 1-4).**
6. **Four components:**
   a. **Math and research review**
   b. **Statistics overview with sociological focus**
   c. **Descriptive statistics**
   d. **Inferential statistics**

Grading Total Points: 700 points available

Item	Points Possible		Points Earned	Due Date
ATTENDANCE	100			
PARTICIPATION	50			
HW TOTAL	100			
HW_ONE		20		
HW_TWO		20		
HW_THREE		20		
HW_FOUR		20		
HW_FIVE		20		
*late homework fee: 1 point deduction per day—max loss of 10points				
EXAMS	300			
EXAM_ONE		150		
EXAM_TWO		150		
WRITING ASSIGNMENT	150			
WA_DRAFT		75		
WA_FINAL		75		

Grade Scale:

In general, Cal State University Fullerton uses a +/- format for final grading.

A+	98% and above
A	92-97%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%
D+	68-69%
D	62-67%
D-	60-61%
F	< 59% of points

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

Each week we will be covering a different topic that will be posted on the course website. These items are subject to change at any point in time as the needs of the course dictate what topics we need to spend more time on.

Week/Dates	Topic	Readings	Activity
Week 1	Introduction Math Review		
Week 2	Concepts of Statistics		
Week 3	Research Techniques Descriptive Statistics		
Week 4	Descriptive		
Week 5	Descriptive		
Week 6	Descriptive		
Week 7	Descriptive		
Week 8	Descriptive		
Week 9	Inferential		
Week 10	Inferential		
Week 11	Inferential		
Week 12	Inferential		
Week 13	Inferential		
Week 14	Regression		
Week 15	Correlation		
Week 16	Recap		
Final	Final		