



Course Syllabus: Data Based Decision Making

College of Enter here
EDLE 6073 Section X10/DX1
Fall 2026

Contact Information

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Instructor Response Policy

I will respond to emails/texts within 24 hours. I do not look at D2L every day. If you need a quick response email the address above.

Textbook & Instructional Materials

Salkind, N.J (2026). *Statistics for people (who think) they hate statistics*. (8th ed). Los Angeles. Sage

Pallant, J. (2020). *SPSS Survival Manual*. (7th ed.). New York. McGraw Hill

Study Hours and Tutoring Assistance

General guidelines for time commitment are as follows.

2-3 hours per hour of course credit for class preparation (reading)

1 hour per hour of course credit for course engagement (course engagement, watching videos, discussion etc..)

This means for a 3-hour course you should expect to devote 10-12 hours per week.

Course Description

Objective of this course is to prepare educational leaders to understand how to use data to solve problems in schools. Data sets utilized emerge from school and district level problems. The tools presented are oriented toward understanding what the data means, how to properly evaluate it and also present the data in a usable format. The course includes a section of presenting complex information to a broader, community-based audience, rather than an academic audience.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes/Course Competencies

This course is designed to provide students with data analysis techniques for basic inferential statistics. After completing this course, students should be able to: (1) generate meaningful research questions and statistical hypotheses, (2) answer research questions by analyzing data using statistical software such as SPSS, and (3) interpret statistical information.

Student Handbook

Refer to: [Student Handbook](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. [Office of Student Conduct](#)

Moffett Library

Moffett Library provides resources and services to support student's studies and assignments, including books, peer-reviewed journals, databases, and multimedia materials accessible both on campus and remotely. The library offers media equipment checkout, reservable study rooms, and research assistance from librarians to help students effectively find, evaluate, and use information. Get started on this Moffett Library webpage to explore these resources and learn how to best utilize the library.

Grading/Assessment

Table 1: Points allocated to each assignment

Assignments	Points
Homework (4* 50 points each)	200
Midterm Exam	100
Final Exam	100
Total Points	400

Table 2: Total points for final grade.

Grade	Points
A	360-400
B	320-359
C	280-319
D	240-279
F	Less than 240

Homework

There will be multiple homework assignments given in this course, many of which will require your use of SPSS. The goals of these assignments are: (1) to ensure you understand how to input data; (2) to ensure you understand how to run various analyses discussed in the course; and (3) to ensure you understand how to interpret SPSS output. Per the latter, many of these assignments will involve you interpreting the results of output in a written document. Written reports of output should follow APA style (7th edition), and should be treated as if included in a manuscript. The homework is take home, open source. However, your answers are yours alone.

Mid-Term and Final Exams

Both the Mid-Term and Final Exam are applications of exercises and homework you have completed in class. They are intended to assess your ability to make decisions about data, which tests to run, interpret results and write in a professional manner. Both exams are take home, open source. However, your answers are yours alone.

Extra Credit

Nope

Late Work

Also nope

Make Up Work/Tests

Still nope

Important Dates

Last day for term schedule changes: August 31

Deadline to file for graduation: September 27

Last Day to drop with a grade of "W:" Nov

Refer to: [Drops, Withdrawals & Void](#)

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

All assignments are submitted as word documents in D2L. Word press, PDF, google docs, etc.. are not accepted and will be counted as 0.

Attendance

This is a hybrid course so attendance is not part of the requirement in the online portion. However, the course is challenging. If you do not stay on top of the

reading, you will quickly get left behind.

General guidelines for time commitment are as follows.

2-3 hours per hour of course credit for class preparation (reading)

1 hour per hour of course credit for course engagement (course engagement, watching videos, discussion etc..)

This means for a 3 hour course you should expect to devote 10-12 hours per week.

Online Computer Requirements

Taking an online class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.***

Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Recording Classes

***Recording classes is generally prohibited without the professor's explicit permission.** Such recordings, when permitted, are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the professor's prior consent. Some faculty may not permit recordings of their classes. When it is feasible and appropriate, students may record classes to accommodate disabilities under the Americans With Disabilities Act, with prior approval of Disability Support Services. Such recordings may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published.

Resources

Our lab has SPSS available. However, we want you to have the convenience of working from home on this as well. To do that you will need access to a computer with a high-speed internet connection and the following software: Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, and [IBM® SPSS® Statistics Standard GradPack 32](#).

You will receive an additional \$50 on your scholarship to offset the cost.

Make sure that you are able to access SPSS Base, Advanced Statistics and

Regression.

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a 100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Northwestern State University (NSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to NSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exist in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Services for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Northwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Northwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the
Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Notice

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

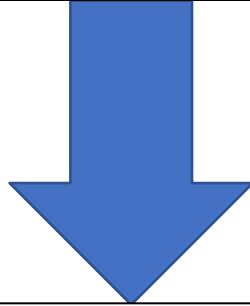
Course Schedule

Class Day/Date	Topics	Correspondi ng Chapters	Grades
Week 1 August 24-31	Introduction Course Requirements and Expectations		
Week 2 August 31-Sept 7	Descriptive statistics, charts, histograms	Salkind 1,2 and 5 Pallant 6-8	
Week 3 Sept 7-Sept 14	Hypothesis Testing, t-tests	Salkind 6-7 8-9 Pallant 17	
Week 4 Sept 14- Sept 21			HW #1 Due Sept 24 (Cover weeks 2-4 topics)
Week 5 Sept 21- Sept 28	ANOVA (One way, repeated measures, maybe ANCOVA and two way)	Salkind 10-11 Pallant 18-19	
Week 6 Sept 28 – Oct 5		Pallant 22	
Week 7 Oct 5- Oct 12			HW #2 Due Oct 16 (Covers Week 5 and 6 topics)
Week 8 Oct 12- Oct 19	Mid-Term		Due Oct 30 8AM
Week 9 Oct 19- Oct 26	Correlation	Salkind 3, 12 Pallant 11	
Week 10 Oct 26- Nov 2	Linear and Multiple Regression	Salkind 14, Pallant 13, 14	

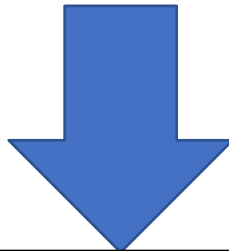
Week 11 Nov 2-Nov 9			HW #3 Due Nov 13 (Covers week 9-10 topics)
Week 12 Nov 9 - Nov 16	Non-parametrics	Salkind 13, Pallant 16	
Week 12 Nov 16 - Nov 23			HW #4 Due Nov 30 (Covers week 13- 15 topics)
Week 13 Nov 23 – Nov 30			
Week 14 Nov 30 – Dec 7			
Week 15 Dec 7 – Dec 11	Final		Dec 10 th 8AM

Conceptual Framework

Exercises – everyone working on the same data through the same problem. Examples are provided through video.



Homework – Broader application of exercises. Some data will be similar but the problems are the same. Tutorials are available as needed (let me know).



Exams (Midterm and Final) – These are real world based problems that you will have to resolve. You have your own data but the same problem. You will likely get a different outcome than someone else and you would both be correct.