

Course Syllabus: PSYC/SOCL 3314  
(Section 201: TR 9:30-10:50; PY-101)  
Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Spring, 2024

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#### REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Diekhoff, G. M. *Basic Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Zip Publishing reprint. Available in campus bookstore.
- Diekhoff, G. M. *IBM SPSS for the Social and Behavioral Sciences (2023-2024)*. Zip Publishing reprint. Available in campus bookstore.
- Battery-operated hand calculator with the following functions: +, -, x, /,  $X^2$ , square root, and memory.
- You will need to have a screen capture tool installed on your desktop or laptop computer. Windows comes with such a tool (shift+flag+s), or you can use TechSmith Capture (formerly "Jing") which is free at this URL: <https://www.techsmith.com/jing-tool.html>

#### RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED

- A USB flash drive is recommended to help you keep your computer lab files organized.
- We highly recommend that you have a desktop or laptop computer with an installed subscription to the IBM SPSS Statistics Standard Grad Pack (Version 29), the statistical software that you'll be learning to use this semester. You can purchase this software wherever you like, but here is one vendor that has proven to be reliable and who provided good customer service in the past: <https://www.hearne.software/SPSS-Selection>. Wherever you get it, the cost should be about \$50 for a six-month subscription. Note that IBM SPSS software will not run on a tablet or smartphone. IBM SPSS is installed on the computers in the O'Donohoe 126 computer lab and those computers are available to you, so it is not mandatory that you have your own subscription. However, the lab is

only open during business hours Monday-Friday, and classes are scheduled in the lab at various times during the week, so you won't always be able to access the lab when you want it. Failure to complete assignments or tests on time because you weren't able to access the lab when you needed it is not an excuse.

- Laerd Statistics at <https://statistics.laerd.com> provides an excellent guide to the use of SPSS at a very reasonable price—about \$15 for six months). I recommend that you take their free tour and decide if their guide might be helpful to you as you learn to use SPSS

### OFFICE HOURS FOR SPRING 2024

MSU faculty are expected to keep at least five hours free each week for student conferences. These office hours are to include at least three days each week. My office hours for spring 2024 are:

MW 11-12  
TR 8-9:30

Please email me to schedule appointments in advance during these times to make sure I don't have a scheduling conflict.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this course you will be exposed to the full range of basic statistics as they are used by researchers in the social and behavioral sciences. The course begins with descriptive statistics--methods by which we can best describe individual cases, samples consisting of multiple cases, and whole populations. Univariate significant difference tests come next, where you will learn how to determine if a difference that is observed between a sample and a population or between multiple samples is a difference that is large enough to be considered reliable and replicable. Bivariate correlational statistics help us to determine which variables co-vary, or "move together," and give us ways of measuring the strength and reliability of those relationships. Finally, bivariate regression analysis allows us to use an established correlation between two variables to predict a case's score on one variable when provided with a score on the other variable. Throughout the semester the emphasis will be on applications of statistical procedures. However, this is not a "cookbook" statistics course. You will learn how statistical analyses work in addition to learning how to use them. Thirteen computer labs available online through D2L will provide you with training and testing in the use of IBM's *Statistical Package for the Social and Behavioral Sciences* (IBM SPSS).

### ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR LECTURES

The lecture portion of this class will be taught in a face-to-face format and regular attendance is expected, with exceptions for excused absences (as defined below). Students are allowed 4 unexcused absences in this class. Each additional unexcused absence beyond these 4 will result in a lowering of the course grade by one-half letter

grade (20 points deducted from the accumulated point total for the semester).

Students who miss the calling of the roll at the beginning of the class will be counted as absent for that day unless you alert me to your presence at the end of the class period to let me know that you were only tardy. Each tardy counts as one-half an unexcused absence. It is each student's responsibility to respond to roll call in a voice that is loud enough for me to hear. Please speak up.

There will be no grade penalty on lecture exams missed because of an excused absence. There will be a one letter grade penalty on each lecture exam missed because of an unexcused absence.

Absences are excused only under the following circumstances:

1. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student was unable to attend class on the day(s) of the absence;
2. the student provides a written excuse from a medical practitioner or MSU official stating that the student's dependent child was ill on the day(s) of the absence;
3. the student provides a written excuse from an MSU official stating that the student was in attendance at a mandatory university function on the day(s) of the absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the written documentation for the excused absence should be provided to me within one week of the absence. If this is not possible, it is the student's responsibility to contact me within a week of the absence to let me know when documentation for the excused absence will be provided. Take responsibility for attending class regularly and promptly documenting excused absences.

There are many good reasons to miss class that are not considered by university policy to be excused absences. Funerals, employment-related absences, illnesses not requiring medical attention, job interviews, family emergencies, automobile malfunctions, court appearances, etc. do not constitute excused absences. Please reserve your 4 allowed absences to cover these situations.

## GRADING

There will be four tests in the lecture portion of the class, each worth 100 points. There will be three tests in the computer lab portion of the class, each worth 100 points. Finally, there will be 10 computer lab homework assignments each worth 10 points. Course grades will be based on your accumulated point totals, weighted so that the lecture portion of the course contributes 75% to your total and the lab contributes 25%.

Grades on lecture exams taken late because of an unexcused absence will be lowered by one letter grade. Grades on computer lab exams taken late because of an unexcused absence will be lowered by one letter grade. Lab homework turned in late

for any reason will receive no credit.

Your accumulated point total for the semester will be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Total} = & [.75 \times (\text{Lecture Test Total})] \\ & + [.25 \times (\text{Lab Test Total} + \text{Lab Homework Total})] \\ & - [(20 \times \# \text{ of unexcused absences beyond } 4)] \end{aligned}$$

Course letter grades will then be assigned on the following scale:

A = 360-400 points  
B = 320-359 points  
C = 280-319 points  
D = 240-279 points  
F = less than 240 points

### MIDTERM PROGRESS REPORT

In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, the instructor for this class will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. Only students who are identified as being at risk for earning grades of D or F will be notified in this manner. Midterm grades will not be reported on the student's transcript, nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give students an idea of where they stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at midterm should consider seeking tutoring or modifying their learning strategies in some other manner.

### DISABILITIES

Individuals requiring special accommodations according to the Americans with Disabilities Act should present the instructor with a special Accommodation Request Form from the MSU Disability Support Services center.

### ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Learning requires mental activity on your part. Learning about statistics will be facilitated by taking notes, thinking of examples, paraphrasing ideas that you hear in class, and so on. Please stay busy and mentally involved during class.
2. Leaving the classroom while class is in session is distracting, inappropriate, and is disruptive to the training process. Please do not engage in this behavior. Come to class having already taken care of your restroom needs and social obligations so that you will be prepared to stay in the classroom for the duration of our sessions. Please do not leave the classroom while we are in session unless you have true emergency, then be prepared to explain to me later why you left. If you have a medical condition that requires you to leave the

classroom on a frequent basis, please work with the Disabilities Office to document your need for a special accommodation.

3. Unless you expect to receive an emergency call or text, please turn off cell phones in class. Do not use cell phones in class. Do not use your cell phone as a calculator in class; bring a true handheld calculator for use during lectures and tests. If you bring a laptop, use it only for taking notes. In general, you'll find that handwritten notes are much more effective than trying to type notes in this or any math class.
4. You may work with others to complete your homework assignments, but remember that the purpose of those homework assignments is to prepare you to act independently and without collaboration or outside help on exams. Cheating on exams will result in a grade of F for the course.

## COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction and Summation Notation—Chapter 1, Appendix A

Data distributions: Tables and graphs—Chapter 2

Descriptive statistics—Chapter 3

EXAM 1\*

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Probability and the normal distribution—Chapter 4

Sampling distributions and interval estimation—Chapter 5

EXAM 2\*

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Significant difference tests: one- and two-sample tests; one-way ANOVA; factorial ANOVA—Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9

EXAM 3\*

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Correlation and regression—Chapters 10, 11

EXAM 4\*

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\* Lecture exam dates will be announced in class at least one week prior to each exam.

Makeup lecture exams will all be administered during final exam week on Tuesday, May 7, 8:00 am in PY101.

## COMPUTER LABS: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Thirteen on-line computer lab sessions (ten instructional labs and three testing sessions) are a required component of this course. The schedule for the instructional and testing labs is found at the end of this syllabus. Although the computer lab in O'Donohoe 126 will be available for your use throughout the semester, the lab portion of the course is taught entirely using recordings posted on D2L and email communication with the lab instructor; there will be no face-to-face lab instruction in the computer lab. The computer lab is scheduled for use by several other courses and is locked outside normal business hours, so you cannot always count on being able to use the lab at times that are convenient for you. That is why you will find it convenient to own a personal subscription to IBM SPSS Version 29. The 10 instructional labs will be pre-recorded and made available to you online through D2L. Those videos will be posted to D2L each Tuesday beginning Jan. 30, 2024 as shown in the lab schedule that follows. Your lab instructor, Mr. Morgan Ballesteros ([morgan.ballesteros@msutexas.edu](mailto:morgan.ballesteros@msutexas.edu)) will be in touch with you via email with details about the lab. Your performance on the three computer lab exams and ten computer lab homework assignments will contribute 25% toward your course grade. Each computer lab exam will be available through D2L for a 24-hour period of time. The lab instructor will be in touch with you via email to communicate specific information about the lab exams.

Missing a lab exam will result in a 10% (one letter grade) penalty on that lab exam unless you provide documentation that the absence was excused. All makeup lab exams will be administered through D2L from 8:00 am Tuesday, May 7, 2024 through 8:00 am Wednesday, May 8. Lab homework assignments cannot be turned in late for any reason as you have plenty of scheduling flexibility to get those turned in on time. I suggest that you aim to turn in homework assignments before the deadlines so that if something slows you down, you will still have time to get assignments in by the deadline.

You should contact [morgan.ballesteros@msutexas.edu](mailto:morgan.ballesteros@msutexas.edu) for all questions or problems pertaining to the lab portion of this course. If you have problems with D2L, contact [D2LHelp@mstutexas.edu](mailto:D2LHelp@mstutexas.edu)

## LAB HOMEWORK

- No lab homework assignments will be accepted late.
- Lab homework assignments that are improperly labeled will not be graded.
- It is recommended that lab homework assignments should be completed and turned in immediately following the corresponding instructional lab. This will

keep you from falling behind. However, hard deadlines for homework assignments are shown in the computer lab schedule at the end of the syllabus.

- Homework for Labs 1-3 is due any time during the 24 hour period of time that Lab Test 1 is available to you; homework for Labs 4-6 is due any time during the 24 hour period of time that Lab Test 2 is available to you; homework for Labs 7-10 is due any time during the 24 hour period of time that Lab Test 3 is available to you.

## COMPUTER LAB SCHEDULE

Instructional videos will be released on Tuesdays each week on the schedule shown below and you can view them at your convenience once they are posted to D2L. The three computer lab exams will also be scheduled for Tuesdays. You will have a 24 hour period of time to complete each lab exam—from 8:00 am Tuesday until 8:00 am the following Wednesday. During that 24 hour window, you will need to complete each exam within a 50 minute period of time. Your lab instructor will provide specific instructions for each exam.

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Jan. 16 and Jan. 23 – There will be no labs during the first two weeks of classes.

Jan. 30—Lab 1, Getting Started With SPSS; Creating Data Files

Feb. 6—Lab 2, Editing and Modifying Data Files

Feb. 13—Lab 3, Generating Reports and Graphs

Feb. 20—Lab Exam 1 (Individual Exercise Homework from Labs 1-3 are due)

Feb. 27—Lab 4, Data Distributions and Descriptive Statistics

Mar. 5—Lab 5, One-Sample Significant Difference Tests

Mar. 12—No lab due to Spring Break

Mar. 19—Lab 6, Two-Sample Significant Difference Tests

Mar. 26—Lab Exam 2 (Individual Exercise Homework from Labs 4-6 are due)

Apr. 2—Lab 7, One-Way ANOVA and Related Statistics

Apr. 9—Lab 8, Two-Way Factorial ANOVA

Apr. 16—Lab 9, Bivariate Correlation and Scatterplots

Apr. 23—Lab 10, Bivariate Regression

Apr. 30—Lab Exam 3 (Individual Exercises from Labs 7-10 are due)

Homework associated with each of the computer lab exams is due any time during the same 24 hour period of time that the corresponding lab exam is available to you.

All makeup lab exams will be available through D2L from 8:00 am Tuesday May 7, closing 8:00 am Wednesday May 8.