

This document may be updated to reflect student questions & comments.

SOC 2205B, Winter 2017, Section 001

Class meets Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 & Thursdays 9:30-10:30 am in SSC 3028

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Office hours: Tue 11:30-12:30 pm, Wed 12:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment.

Teaching assistants:

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Office: SSC 5323

Office hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:00 pm and Thursday 12:00-1:00 pm

Prerequisite(s)

1.0 Sociology course at the 1000 level

Antirequisite(s)

[Biology 2244A/B](#), [Economics 2122A/B](#), [2222A/B](#), [Geography 2210A/B](#), [Health Sciences 3801A/B](#), [MOS 2242A/B](#), [Psychology 2810](#), [2820E](#), [2830A/B](#), [2850A/B](#), [2851A/B](#), [Social Work 2207A/B](#), [Statistical Sciences 2035](#), [2141A/B](#), [2143A/B](#), [2244A/B](#), [2858A/B](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 2205 is an introductory course designed to help you conduct and interpret basic quantitative analysis of social issues. The class will cover elementary statistical concepts and methods used in the social sciences. The emphasis in the class will be not on computation but on understanding the process of analysis and interpreting the results competently. The material in this course can be roughly divided into two parts

- 1) The first part will cover **descriptive statistics**. Here you will learn how to summarize and describe the data in the sample, first one variable at a time and then pairs of variables. We will learn basic numerical and graphical methods appropriate to categorical and continuous variables.
- 2) The second part will be **inference**, where you will learn how to generalize sample results to the population. This part will start with the basic logic of inference, focusing on the importance of sampling distributions. Then we will apply this process to univariate and bivariate hypothesis tests and confidence interval calculations.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After a successful completion of the course, you will be able to

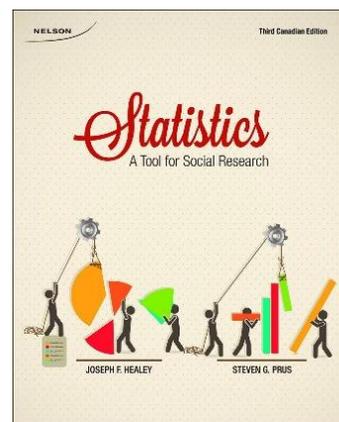
- Understand and appreciate statistics' role and function in sociological inquiry
- Comprehend basic statistics used in industry, government, and academic reports
- Explain the basics of the logic of statistical inference
- Conduct basic quantitative analysis of data
- Critically assess the presentation of statistical data in everyday life (i.e., the media)

CLASS STRUCTURE

The classes will combine lectures with student participation, individual and group exercises, hands-on work with data, problem solving, etc. In order to participate in the class, students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. **Statistics: A Tool for Social Research, 3rd Canadian Edition**, by Joseph Healey & Steven G. Prus, Nelson Publishing. Get the least expensive option you can; used books are fine (but check Aplia information under Optional materials below).
2. **SPSS Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software**. The best deal is available at the Campus Computer Store: you can purchase a USB key for \$50 plus tax with SPSS license that will be valid through June. If the SPSS purchase presents a financial hardship for you, please come and talk to me – I have an alternative way to access SPSS for a limited number of students.



OPTIONAL

To do well in the class, you will need to practice the material regularly. A great way to practice is to do online exercises using the Aplia website, which has a really nice collection of homework problems linked to our textbook. The only drawback: Aplia access is not free. If you are interested in doing the exercises online with Aplia, you can get access to it in one of two ways:

1. You can buy the print version of our textbook new WITH APLIA access from the Western Bookstore: <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/product/0176706925>. This package is priced at \$128.50 (\$15 more than the new book on its own). You will find the access card for Aplia shrinkwrapped within the package – **do not toss that card!**
2. If you have a new or used textbook without the Aplia package OR only want an online e-book (not downloadable), an independent Aplia costs \$79 (and comes with the e-

book version of the text). You can purchase it here:

<http://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/isbn/978-0-17-668030-5>.

This link automatically takes you to the correct course but the “instructor provided course key” is the last 12 digits of the course URL (SSS3-8PBQ-VY9D):

<http://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/SSS3-8PBQ-VY9D>.

If you want to check out Aplia before purchasing, you can get started with your **FREE TRIAL** right away by creating an account from the course page and clicking on “Start Temporary Access” - <http://login.nelsonbrain.com/course/SSS3-8PBQ-VY9D>. Your **free access will expire at midnight on January 22nd** and you can then make an informed decision about the best resource purchase option for you.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Evaluation Breakdown

Preparation for class and class participation	20%
Lab reports (3)	25%
Mid-semester exams (2)	30%
Final exam	25%

Additional information

Preparation for class and attentive class presence (20%)

The goal of this category is to make sure you stay on track and are primed to absorb information during the class. In a course like this, regular work and keeping up with the material is critical to ensure you do your best and to receive plentiful feedback on your performance.

The preparation assessments can occur at the beginning of some classes when you will answer basic questions in writing about topics we are to cover that day. The questions may be easy items from the chapter aimed at making sure you read the text prior to the class. The attentive class presence may consist of answering simple questions in writing during the class or working out simple problems. There can also be points taken off for texting, browsing/social media, or other behaviors that indicate the lack of attention and following the class discussion. There will be between 10 and 20 assignments in this category during the semester, each weighted the same. **Two lowest scores from this category will be omitted in calculating your final grade.** Therefore, no additional academic accommodation is possible, such as if you miss numerous classes for whatever reason or come to class late and miss the prep assessment.

Lab reports (25%)

The goal of this category is to showcase your understanding of the material, focusing on your ability to conduct correct and creative analysis of data and present results in a professional and clear manner.

There will be three lab reports. The first one will be worth 7% of the grade, the second one 8%, and the last one 10%. Each lab report assignment will be posted on OWL at least one full week before the due date. You will complete the report, upload it to OWL, and also bring a hard copy to class at the beginning of class on the due date. There is no makeup for this category. Late lab reports will be penalized at the rate of 10 percent of the assignment value per day late.

Mid-term tests (30%)

The goal of this item is to review material covered during the first part of the semester. There will be two mid-term tests; each will be worth 15%. The specific chapters that will be covered on each will be posted on OWL but in general you can expect each midterm to include everything covered up to that point in the course, lectures as well as textbook readings. The test may include multiple choice questions, true/false questions, fill-in-the blank answers, short problems, as well as interpretation of statistical output.

Note that computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Final test (25%)

The final examination will be during the regular winter exam period. It will be 90 minutes long. The final exam is cumulative; students are responsible for ALL of the material in the course, although the emphasis will be on material covered after the second mid-term test.

A Note about all tests. You are responsible for bringing pencils and a calculator. I will provide scantron sheets or tables if needed; no formula sheets are allowed. Failure to write your full name (first and last name) or illegible name will be penalized by 10-20%.

There is no extra credit. Please work consistently throughout the semester. The timing, quantity, and types of assessment are carefully chosen to draw on a broad spectrum of your skills and strengths and especially to give you timely feedback on your performance.

In keeping with departmental grade guidelines, it is expected that the **class average for this course will be around 67-70%**. Should the final overall grades yield a value significantly below this range, grades will be adjusted upward to ensure an appropriate mean for the class.

There is no routine provision for make-up examinations, tests or assignments.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 01/09	First class
Thursday 02/08	Lab report 1 due
Thursday 02/15	Midterm test 1
02/19 to 02/23	Spring break, no classes
Thursday 3/08	Lab report 2 due
Thursday 3/15	Midterm test 2
Tuesday 04/10	Last class, Lab report 3 due
TBD	Final exam

Please make sure your travel plans allow for taking your final exam as scheduled by the University. I am not able to move the date of the final exam and cannot administer the exam at an earlier date for a student who leaves the campus prior to final exam date.

LIST OF COVERED TOPICS

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- Class intros
- The role of statistics in social science

2. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

- Univariate descriptives
 - For categorical variables
 - For continuous variables
- Bivariate descriptives
 - For two categorical variables
 - For one categorical and one continuous variable
 - For two continuous variables

3. INFERENCE

- Probability, Normal distribution
- Estimation procedures, sampling distribution
- Inference for a single continuous variable to practice logic of inference
 - Confidence interval for a population mean
 - Hypothesis testing for a population mean
- Inference for bivariate relationships
 - 2-sample t-test for comparing two population means
 - Chi squared test for testing the association between categorical vars
 - Correlation, for two continuous variables

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT WE COVER WHEN? OWL Announcements. Every weekend, your instructor will post the plan for the coming week, including the topic and associated reading, on OWL. Most of the time we will take textbook chapters in order and cover about one chapter per week. The bivariate descriptives will not follow this order.

SOC 2205 POLICIES

What if I have questions about the class?

First, check the syllabus. Most students find that the syllabus provides answers to many questions.

Second, contact your teaching team (instructor and/or T.A.s) via email. We strongly encourage you to do so as soon as questions or issues arise so we can work with you to help. You can expect replies within 24 hours during regular work days or 48 on weekends. We will aim to answer faster than that.

- Please write “**SOC 2205**” in the subject line – if you don’t, we may fail to notice your email and thus we may not answer it in a timely manner.

What are email rules in the class?

You rightfully expect that your teaching team treat you with respect and in a professional manner. We expect the same from you. Please make sure your email communication is professional and fairly formal. Emails to your teaching team are NOT like texting your friends. Please be polite and use proper salutation and correct spelling and grammar. For instance, your college instructors should be addressed “Professor XYZ” or “Dr. XYZ,” not “Hey there” or “Hi Jane” or “Dear Mrs. Green.”

Review of key points about communication:

- Email your teaching team if you have questions AND the syllabus does not answer them.
- Don’t wait until problems arise – communicate with your teaching team in a timely way.
- Put “**SOC 2205**” in the subject line.

What if I miss a class?

If you are absent from a class, two rules apply:

- 1) Do not email your teaching team
- 2) Do get notes and all information from your classmates. You are responsible to keep up with the class. I will post key information on OWL but make sure you talk to your colleagues in advance and ask them to take notes for you.

Do I need to attend classes?

Regular class attendance is essential to learning at the university level, especially in a course like statistics where considerable practice of important concepts occurs in the classroom, and where each element of the course serves as a building block for what follows. I strongly

encourage you to come to class all semester in order to maximize your opportunities to learn. Attending lectures AND doing all assigned readings is a necessary (though not sufficient) condition for earning a high grade in this class.

You are responsible for all announcements, lecture notes, and activities we cover in class even if you have a valid reason to miss a class. **If you miss a class, please contact your classmates to get all information about what we did.**

What's expected of me in class?

Appropriate professional and respectful behavior is expected of all students, in order to facilitate a supportive learning environment. Any activities not related to the class material must be conducted outside of the classroom, including any social media or in-person communication. Cell phones must be on silent and no conversation or texting is acceptable. **If your behavior does not abide by these basic rules, you may be asked to leave the class.** Please understand I do not wish to use this policy but it is disruptive to other students if someone near them is online or texting.

What is the policy on electronics in class?

Laptops are permitted in class for note-taking although I strongly encourage you to take notes by hand. Laptops are also considered important to successfully follow applied parts of the class – you will want to try analyzing data yourself, not just watch your colleagues or instructor do an analysis.

However, if a student is observed browsing the web including social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they may be reprimanded, asked to close the device, or possibly even asked to leave the class. Even if you feel you can still follow the class while browsing, such behavior is disruptive to those around you and disrespectful to the class.

Please make sure that your cell phones are silent or turned off at the beginning of class; beeping and ringing distracts your colleagues and is impolite in a classroom setting.

What is the policy on deadlines?

Due dates for any assignments will be posted on OWL. Late lab reports will be penalized at the rate of 10 percent of the assignment value per day late. Any assignment not received within 5 days of the due date will not be accepted except with appropriate documentation.

What can I have with me on exams? Or, Policies on Examinations

Only two items are allowed for mid-term and final tests: a pencil (plus at least one backup pencil) and a calculator (although you may not need to calculator). You can buy a cheap calculator at the dollar store; nothing fancy will be needed. Calculators on your phones or tablets or other devices may not be used.

Note that computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

What is the makeup policy for missed exams?

- If you miss a midterm and Academic Counseling office approves your absence, we will reweigh your other tests as “the other midterm”=20% and final=35%.
- If you miss both midterms and Academic Counseling office approves your absence, the final exam will carry a weight of 55%.
- If you miss a final exam and Academic Counseling office deems your absence excused, there will be one makeup date, which will be announced in advance. This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.
- In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY-WIDE POLICIES

Note Regarding Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health @Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.