COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide you with a basic understanding of the statistical procedures and the experimental designs used in the behavioral sciences. You should expect to develop some of the basic statistical skills necessary to analyze simple data sets. You will learn how to make inferences about what is happening in a population of individuals based on information coming from relatively few individuals. Emphasis will also be placed on the application of these skills, as you will be asked to analyze specific statistical problems over the course of the semester. This class is particularly important for those of you hoping to conduct research projects in the behavioral sciences and is a required course for Psychology Majors.

Why are you in this class?
(You and your classmates are in a range of majors and departments from Psychology, Social work, Political Science, Corrections, Life Sciences, to “checking things out” (i.e., undeclared).

This class is for YOU, students who want to understand statistics for the behavioral sciences. Many students in the behavioral sciences have, for various reasons, built up an aversion to math. This course WILL NOT intensify your fear of math! Although math is inherently difficult for most students, the math needed to be successful in this course does not go beyond high school algebra. We will focus mostly on the conceptual understanding of statistics before I ask you to use any algebra.

Course Goals:
1.) Learn how statistics can help you separate fact from fiction.
2.) Apply basic statistics to disciplines in the behavioral sciences.
3.) Gain confidence in your ability to understand statistics and conduct basic statistical tests.

TEXT & MATERIALS


*Online Text Site: www.cengage.com/psychology/pagano click on student “Companion Site” link
1.) Calculators:
You will need a calculator that performs statistical functions, but nothing fancy. You will find that as the course progresses, a good calculator will be absolutely essential to maintain accuracy, efficiency, and some degree of sanity. You should always bring your calculator to class.

2.) Desire 2 Learn: D2L will be used for administrative purposes (e.g., grades, announcements), for posting course material (e.g., notes, handouts, etc.), and for course quizzes. You should check our site several times during the week. Note that all of your grades will be kept on D2L so you will have easy access to them. Course materials will be available on D2L, but these materials do not include everything done in class and are not a substitute for coming to class. It is your responsibility to keep up with your grades. If you have a question or you think something is wrong/missing, please contact me immediately, don’t wait until the end of the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Problem Sets & Quizzes -- (25%) Problem sets will be assigned throughout each week of class. These problem sets are designed as a tool to help you learn and practice the statistics discussed in class. For success in this course it is essential that you complete each set on time. Problem sets are due when they are collected in class. If the assignment is not in my possession when they are collected, it will be counted as LATE. I will deduct 1 letter grade for each day an assignment is late - not including weekends. You are free to work with others on homework assignments, but you must hand in your own papers.

2. Quizzes will be administered in D2L at the end of the week. You will have from the end of the class (Thursday at 5:00 until Sunday at 11:00 p.m. at the end of each week) to complete each Quiz. You will have up to 3 chances to take a Quiz. Your highest score from these 3 opportunities will be counted as your Quiz grade.

3. SPSS -- (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) computer assignments -- (5%) In order to give you a brief introduction to how some statistical software packages work, you will be required to do assignments with SPSS over the course of the class.

4. Attendance – (10%) Formal attendance will be kept. You will earn two points for each class you attend. This is not meant to make your life difficult. Your overall success in this course is dependent on your attendance.

5. Exams -- (60%) There will be four exams during the course of the semester (including the final). All exams will be open book, open notes, and you can use your calculators. You CANNOT use your neighbor.

6. Extra Credit: Participation in Research: You may earn extra credit by participating in research being conducted in the psychology department. As a member of this class, you will be automatically enrolled in the online research system called SONA. Shortly after the semester begins, you will receive an email notifying you of your enrollment in SONA. Opportunities for participation are posted at http://mnsu.sonatxt.com/

You are responsible for signing up for experiments and showing up on time at the appointed dates. You will earn 1 point of extra credit to be added to your exam point total for every 15 minutes you spend in a research study. You can receive up to 16 extra credit points toward your exam point total. Please check the site often as experiments will be posted throughout the semester. You may also arrange an alternate experience with me if you feel strongly about not participating in an experiment. The laboratory experience will expose you to research methods used in a variety of disciplines in psychology.
LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Grades will be determined by combining grades from Problem Sets & Quizzes, SPSS Assignments, Attendance, and Exams

1. Problem Sets & Quizzes ................................................................. 25%
2. SPSS Assignments ..................................................................... 5%
3. Attendance .................................................................................. 10%
4. Exams ......................................................................................... 60%

Grading Scale:

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<th>Percentage Points</th>
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<td>93-100 = A</td>
<td>76-73 = C</td>
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<td>92-90 = A-</td>
<td>72-70 = C-</td>
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<td>89-87 = B+</td>
<td>69-67 = D+</td>
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<td>86-83 = B</td>
<td>66-63 = D</td>
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<td>82-80 = B-</td>
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<td>79-77 = C+</td>
<td>59 &amp; Below = F</td>
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POLICIES & PROCEDURES

*Note that these are in place to make sure class runs smoothly, not because I am trying to make your life difficult.

1. Attendance/Participation:
   I expect that you will attend class as it is in your best interest to do so. Due to the nature of the topic, much of your learning and understanding of concepts will come from:
   1.) Attending class
   2.) Actively participating in class
   I expect that from time to time you will have questions about the material. I will encourage you to ask questions so our classroom can become an active, learning-centered environment. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to get the notes from a class member.

2. Electronics: *Before coming to class I ask that you shut off your cell phone, iPods, etc. Keeping such things on is very distracting to me and to those around you.
   **Cell Phones:** You MAY NOT use a cell phone in class. If you have a personal situation that would require using your cell phone for a day, please speak to me before class.
   **Text Messaging:** You MAY NOT text message during the class. If I see you texting during class time this will result in you losing your attendance points for the day. This is not meant to be unfair or rude. It is impossible for you to learn anything while you are text messaging. I will give you a break during each class. During this time you are free to use electronics.
   More generally, while in class I expect that you will be considerate of your classmates and refrain from any disruptive behavior (e.g., talking, reading, sleeping, etc.).

3. Arrivals: Please arrive on time! Coming in late, finding a seat, getting your notes out, etc. can be quite disruptive.
4.) **Departures:** I promise never to keep you late, even if it means cutting myself off. That said, I expect you to remain here for the entire class. If you have to leave early please speak to me before class.

5.) **Email:** Please put **PSYC: 201** in the subject of your email. I welcome questions/comments from you; however, please do not email me late in the evening and expect I will be able to reply to you then. I will do my best to respond to your email within 24 hours. Consult your syllabus and D2L for information before you email me. Chances are you can find what you need there. Please do not discuss grades with me over email. Grades are personal and important. We should meet face-to-face during a scheduled meeting to discuss grades.

6.) **Make-up Exams:** There will be no make-up exams. It is your responsibility to come to class and find out when the exams will be held. If you know for some reason that you will not be able to take an exam on a given date, you must see me **BEFORE** the exam to make necessary arrangements.

7.) **Late/Missed Assignments:** You **must** submit all written work on the due date. If an assignment is not turned in during class or completed on D2L when it is due I will drop 1 letter grade for each day it is late (weekends excluded). You should arrange to turn in work to me ahead of time if you know you will be missing a class.

8.) **Students with Disabilities:** Every effort will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability and you will require special accommodations in this course, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss necessary accommodations and contact the Disability Services Office at (507) 389-2825 (V) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

9.) **Other Academic Support Agencies:** There are a number of organizations on campus that can help you with academic and non-academic related needs. If you have a problem that you would like to discuss at any point in the course please come and talk to me and I can point you in the direction of a suitable resource.

10.) **Academic Honesty:** I expect that you will conduct yourselves with honesty and personal and academic integrity while in this class. Students caught cheating on exams, quizzes, or assignments will be subject to a failing grade on that specific assignment and/or a failing final course grade and may have their situation turned over to student affairs for formal discipline, which may include expulsion.
Course Outline

Please Note—Homework Due Dates for Problem Sets are NOT included in the course outline. I will notify you in class of when Problem Sets are assigned and due! Note: I reserve the right to modify the syllabus based on the progress of the class and unforeseen circumstances.

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**Final Exam (Exam #4) is scheduled for Friday December 11th at 2:45-4:45 p.m.**