

Spring 2-1-2016

SOCI 202.01: Social Statistics

Megan Bahns

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Social Statistics
SOCI 202
MWF 1:10pm-2pm
LA 106
Spring 2016

Instructor:

- **Dr. Megan Bahns**
- **Office: Social Science 315**
- **Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00am and by appointment**
- **Email Address: megan.bahns@mso.umt.edu**
- **Phone: 243-5353**

*note regarding email: When emailing me please indicate in the subject heading the name of the class you are in (Social Statistics). If emailing me to set up an appointment time, please also clearly indicate this in the subject heading.

Teaching Assistant and Preceptors

Teaching Assistant- Ally Guldborg	Preceptor- Sophie Friedl	
Office: Social Science 312	Office: Social Science 332	
Office Hours: M/F 12-1pm	Office Hours: TH 2:30-3:30pm	
Email: ally.guldborg@umontana.edu	Email: Sophia.friedl@umconnect.umt.edu	

OBJECTIVE

The goal of this course is to introduce you to basic statistical concepts and techniques. The information gained will provide you with a foundation to understand the statistics often visible in our daily lives, in the newspaper and other popular media (i.e. television and radio). It will also give you the tools needed to enroll in more advanced statistics courses, if you choose to do so. There are a variety of topics covered in this course. These will range from basic organization of data, graphic presentation of data, probability, sampling distributions and statistical inference.

LEARNING GOALS

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the symbols used in statistical research and how they transform numbers to give them meaning. This will include relaying, interpreting, and effectively communicating social information in terms of statistical symbols, operations, and reasoning; and applying creative thinking skills using the language and logic of statistical analysis in order to address a variety of applied and theoretical social problems.

TEXTS

Required text: Frankfort-Nachmias, C. and Leon-Guerrero, A. (2015). Social statistics for a diverse society, (7th ed.) CA: Pine Forge Press (paperback).

Recommended statistical software: SPSS GRAD PACK Version 23. 6-month downloadable license \$35.00 & \$4.99 download fee

Each student will also need a personal calculator. Nothing fancy, but something that can do basic mathematical operations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Time:

Class time will be divided between presentation of the concepts that provide the foundation of statistical

analysis, the actual nuts and bolts associated with the applications of the statistics, and interpreting what the results obtained allow us to say about the data and our research questions.

It is imperative that you respect the opinions and comments of other students in the course. Failure to respect other students or the instructor will result in removal from the class and an out of class meeting with me in my office. Other disruptive behaviors such as talking out of turn, sleeping, or reading the newspaper will likewise not be tolerated.

Although attendance will not be taken (you are a grown-up now), you are expected to attend class. It will be very difficult to do well if you do not attend regularly. Unlike many other courses you might have taken, it will be difficult to catch up and cram for exams. Statistics are based on a building block principle where later ideas build upon previous ones. Make it a point to attend class! The TA, Preceptors, and I will not provide notes or schedule special meeting times to go over material that is missed due to a non-university sanctioned absence.

Grades:

Quizzes: 4 quizzes (drop lowest grade)- 25% each- 75% total

There will be four in-class quizzes in this course. I will drop your lowest grade. There will be no make-ups (if you miss an exam that will be the score that is dropped)

Statistics Happy Hour: 10 @ 2.5 each- 25% total

There is no question that if you are doing statistics, there is a high probability that you are very happy. Statistics Happy Hour is an homage to the happiness that statistics can bring. Nearly every Friday of the semester, we will use this hour to complete in class assignments, work on sample problems, finish homework assignments, pose questions and answer them, challenge conventional thought and reasoning, and (of course) be happy that we're doing statistics. There are no drink or food specials during this Statistics Happy Hour. But, make sure to bring your textbook, calculator, paper and pencil, so you can impress your friends at another Happy Hour with the refined statistical skills you gained in this weekly session.

Letter Grade	Grade Percent
A	90-100 percent
B	80-89 percent
C	70-79 percent
D	60-69 percent
F	59 percent or below

Class Policies:

Each of the quizzes must be taken at the place and time they are scheduled. I *will not* accept late work. Exceptions will be made only for university sanctioned excuses (i.e. documented medical or family problems; university approved absences for athletic participation, field trips, etc.). Reasonable accommodations will be made for students who have a documented disability. Please notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations that are needed for the course. Late notification may result in the requested accommodations not being available. All accommodations must be approved through Disability Services for Students (DSS) in Lommasson Center 154 (243-2243).

Academic Honesty and Integrity (UM official statement):

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the university. All students must be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#). The code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

In an effort to preserve the academic integrity of the course, students may only use a personal calculator; cell phones and other electronic devices will not be permitted during quizzes. Any student found in violation of these mandates will receive a zero on the quiz and will be required to meet with me to discuss whether or not they are eligible to continue on with the course.

Final Note:

There will be times during the duration of the semester when you cannot figure something out. While I encourage you to master the concepts presented in this course on your own, you should not spend hours upon hours hung-up on something. I encourage you to develop a study-buddy or a group of study-buddies as a way to learn the information. TA's and Preceptors are a rich source of information as well. Be sure and take advantage of their office hours and study sessions. Furthermore, class-time will always be open for questions and diagnosis of problems that emerge... so come prepared.

Reading and Quiz Schedule

Changes in the reading and exam schedule may occasionally be made. Advance notice of these changes will be made during class time.

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Jan 25 th Introductions	Jan 27 th : Ch.1	Jan 29 th : Ch. 2
Feb 1 st : Ch. 3	Feb 3 rd : Ch. 4	Feb 5 th Stats happy hour
Feb 8 th : Review	Feb 10 th : Quiz #1 Covers chapters 1-4	Feb 12 th Chapter 5
Feb 15th- Presidents Day- No Class	Feb 17 th : Chapter 6	Feb 19 th : Stats happy hour
Feb 22 nd : Ch. 7	Feb 24 th : Estimation, Ch. 8	Feb 26 th Stats happy hour
Feb 2 th : Review	March 2 nd : Quiz #2 Covers chapters 5-8	March 4 th Stats happy hour
March 7 th : Ch. 9	March 9 th : Ch. 9	March 11 th Stats happy hour
March 14 th : Ch. 10	March 16 th : Ch 10	March 18 th Stats happy hour
March 21 st : Review	March 23 th : Quiz #3 Covers chapters 9-10	March 25 th Stats happy hour
March 28 th : Ch 11	March 30 th : Ch. 11	April 1 st

		Ch 11
April 4th: Spring Break	April 6th: Spring Break	April 8th: Spring Break
April 11th: No Class	April 13th: Chi-Square, Healey Ch. 11	April 15th: Stats happy hour
April 18st: Ch. 12	April 20th: Ch. 12	April 22nd: Stats happy hour
April 25th: Ch. 13	April 27th: Ch. 13	April 29th: Stats happy hour
May 2nd: Review	May 4th: Quiz #4 Covers chapters 11-13	May 6th: Last Day of Class