

SOC 351 SOCIAL STATISTICS
Spring 2024 | Section 1: Asynchronous Online

Instructor: M. David Chunyu, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology
Lecture: Asynchronous online
Lab: Asynchronous online
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course provides a general introduction to statistical techniques for analyzing social science data. Familiarity with statistics is important for the informed citizen because many social policy debates center on the use of statistical information. Statistics is also a necessary tool for those interested in social research, an increasingly important source of employment opportunities for social science majors.

Students will learn techniques for summarizing data, examining relationships among variables, generalizing from samples to populations, and testing statistical hypotheses.

Learning activities of this course will include lectures, video watching, practice and review exercises, lab activities, and homework assignments.

The laboratory portion of the course is designed to complement the lectures by letting students gain hands-on experience carrying out various kinds of statistical exercises. The main activities will be computer-intensive and will take place in a computer lab (virtual or physical). Students will learn how to use SPSS Statistics, a widely used statistical software for social scientists. We will mainly be using SPSS to analyze data from the General Social Survey (GSS). In addition, students are also expected to carry out certain lab activities that do not involve computers but are done by hands only.

This course (or PSYC 300) is required for Sociology and Social Work majors.

Prerequisites

MATH 90 or equivalent; or instructor consent.

- ❖ Generally if you can add, subtract, multiply, and divide, and follow simple rules of

logical deduction, then you have the tools necessary to succeed in this course. *However, it is imperative that you keep up with the progress of the course at all times!* Due to the extremely technical and cumulative nature of this course, if you fall behind at any stage, it can be difficult to catch up. Therefore, regular class participation, meticulous notes, and timely completion of class and lab tasks and assignments are essential.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate appreciation for when, why, and how social statistics are used;
2. Articulate the basic concepts and methodological procedures of data analysis, as well as the logic underlying those procedures;
3. Process, analyze, and interpret data for the social sciences [e.g., the General Social Survey (GSS) data];
4. Use statistical software (e.g., SPSS) to conduct basic data analysis;
5. Apply critical thinking to engage in analysis of quantitative research methods and research findings;
6. Use and translate quantitative research evidence to inform and improve professional practice, policy, and service delivery;
7. Use professional practice to inform social science inquiry and research.

Social Work Competency

For Social Work majors, all aspects of this course help them work toward the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) competency of “**engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice**” for accredited social work programs:

➤ *Engage in practice-informed research and research-informed practice.*

Social workers use ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive approaches in conducting research and building knowledge. Social workers use research to inform their practice decision making and articulate how their practice experience informs research and evaluation decisions. Social workers critically evaluate and critique current, empirically sound research to inform decisions pertaining to practice, policy, and programs. Social workers understand the inherent bias in research and evaluate design, analysis, and interpretation using an anti-racist and anti-oppressive perspective. Social workers know how to access, critique, and synthesize the current literature to develop appropriate research questions and hypotheses. Social workers demonstrate knowledge and skills regarding qualitative and quantitative research methods and

analysis, and they interpret data derived from these methods. Social workers demonstrate knowledge about methods to assess reliability and validity in social work research. Social workers can articulate and share research findings in ways that are usable to a variety of clients and constituencies. Social workers understand the value of evidence derived from interprofessional and diverse research methods, approaches, and sources.

Social workers:

- a) apply research findings to inform and improve practice, policy, and programs; and
- b) identify ethical, culturally informed, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive strategies that address inherent biases for use in quantitative and qualitative research methods to advance the purposes of social work.

CLASS MATERIALS

Textbook

The following book is required and has been ordered at the university bookstore (please visit <https://uwsp.bncollege.com> to get the text rental information):

Chava Frankfort-Nachmias, Anna Leon-Guerrero, and Georgiann Davis. 2020. *Social Statistics for a Diverse Society. 9th Edition.* SAGE Publications, Inc.

Students can also access the textbook supplements (just the supplements, not the textbook) at the student study website: <https://edge.sagepub.com/frankfort9e/student-resources>

Additional Course Materials

Additional course materials (the instructor's lecture slides, videos, datasets and related documentation, practice and review exercises, assignments, exams, website/platform links, etc.) will be made available in the online course management system Canvas canvas.uwsp.edu. You will use your UWSP account to login to the course on Canvas. If you have not activated your UWSP account, please visit the [Manage Your Account](#) page to do so.

Course Technology Requirements

View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](#).

You will also need access to the following tools to participate in this course:

- a stable internet connection (don't rely on cellular)
- webcam and microphone (for optional Zoom meetings)
- a calculator (see below for more information)
- the SPSS software (see below for more information)

Each student should get a calculator with the square and square-root functions. This can be either a conventional standalone calculator like a regular scientific calculator, or a calculator application/app on a computer/tablet/mobile device. A graphing calculator won't be necessary. The calculator will be used for class exercises, lab activities, homework assignments, and exams.

The SPSS software is accessible on all campus computers, so in order to use the software students can either go to a campus computer lab in person (see the main campus lab hours under the “Teaching and Learning Resources” section) or use their home computers to get connected to the UWSP remote computer lab virtually at remotelab.uwsp.edu.

- ❖ ***Special note:*** In case students want to use the UWSP remote computer lab remotelab.uwsp.edu, they are recommended to use a PC (with a Windows operating system) rather than a Mac/iPad (with an Apple operating system), because there have been reports that Mac/iPad users tend to have difficulty getting access to the UWSP remote lab.

Disclaimer: *It would be OK to use statistical software other than SPSS for course assignments, such as Excel, Stata, SAS, R, etc., but **instructions will only be provided in SPSS.** Therefore, if a student chooses to use non-SPSS software and data format for completing the required coursework, then **it will be students' own responsibility to figure out how to use the non-SPSS software and data format** in order to complete the pertinent course assignments.*

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course will be delivered entirely online and asynchronously through Canvas canvas.uwsp.edu.

This course consists of 12 units of substantive learning, aligned with 12 chapters of our textbook. Basically, students are expected to complete one unit each week throughout the semester. For almost every unit students are expected to complete various kinds of tasks and earn the respective grade points.

In addition, there will be three exams: two midterm exams and one final exam (see the “Grading” section for details).

Additional Communication Expectations for Students

- Professional and respectful tone and civility are used in communicating with fellow learners and the instructor.
- Written communication, both formal and informal, uses Standard English rather than popular online abbreviations and regional colloquialisms.
- Spelling and grammar are correct.

GRADING

A student's final course grade is based entirely on the "TOTAL POINTS" they have earned over the semester. The "TOTAL POINTS" are simply the total crude points a student has accumulated from homework assignments and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable, and **summation** is the only mathematical operation used for calculating a student's "TOTAL POINTS". Thus, no percentage, proportion, or division is used in the "TOTAL POINTS" calculation. (***Important note:*** The "Total" % column or other automatically generated columns in the "Grades" area of Canvas will **NOT** be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course. Also see the "Grading Scale" section below.)

A student's max TOTAL POINTS consist of the following:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| ➤ Homework Assignments | 40 Points | |
| ➤ Exams | 60 Points | |
| ❖ 1st exam | | 15 points |
| ❖ 2n exam | | 15 points |
| ❖ Final exam | | 30 points |

Max Total = 100 Points

➤ Homework Assignments (40 Points)

There will be weekly homework assignments throughout the semester. Some of the assignment tasks are about manual calculations, while others involve using a computer and statistical software to analyze real-world datasets.

Again, in order to use the SPSS software students can either go to a campus computer lab in person (you

may have to install SPSS on some of these lab computers yourself if the software program hasn't been installed there already, but that is fairly easy to do) or use their own computers to get connected to the UWSP remote computer lab virtually at remotelab.uwsp.edu; and in case students want to use the UWSP remote lab they are recommended to use a PC rather than a Mac/iPad. Students can refer to the instructor's video tutorial in Canvas → "Week 1: Introduction to the Course" module → "Lab: Introduction" on how to get connected to the UWSP remote lab. Additional information on the UWSP remote lab is available at <https://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ComputerLabs/Remote-Lab.aspx>

All the needed datasets and documentation are available in Canvas → "Data" module.

All weekly assignments will be due on Sunday night within the week. For example, the assignment for the first week (01/22 – 01/28: Introduction to the Course) will be due on Sunday (01/28), the assignment for the second week (01/29 – 02/04: Organization of Information) will be due on Sunday (02/04), so on and so forth. ***All assignments are to be submitted to Canvas (see below).***

Note: For assignment submission to Canvas, students can either type up their work as text or write their work on paper by hand and then upload pictures of their hand-written work. In case students want to submit pictures, students must make sure their pictures are fully legible. Students are recommended to upload pictures as JPG/PNG/PDF/Word files; try to avoid HEIC photos or compressed/zip files please, because HEIC photos and compressed/zip files do not display in Canvas.

➤ ***Exams (60 Points)***

There will be three (3) exams: two midterm exams and one final exam. All exams will be take-home exams and are to be submitted to Canvas. The exam questions will be based on lectures, reading, pre-recorded videos, review exercises, lab activities, and assignments.

The first two exams will be given in the middle of the semester and the exam arrangements will be announced in advance. These two midterm exams may include multiple-choice questions, test problems, and SPSS application problems. Each midterm exam is worth 15 points.

The third and final exam will be given during the final exam week, counting as 30 points. The final exam will ***NOT*** include SPSS application problems.

To help students prepare for the exams, the instructor will distribute review exercises for each unit. These review exercises are designed to help students digest and reinforce the class learning. Also importantly, these review exercises are very closely tied to the exams, so students are highly recommended to make good use of these review exercises when preparing for the exams.

Take careful note of the exam schedules, especially the date and time of the final exam, because the final exam schedule is usually not the same as the regular class meeting schedule. ***NEITHER EARLIER NOR MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE OFFERED EXCEPT IN DOCUMENTED CONFLICTS OR EMERGENCIES.***

➤ ***Bonus Points (Optional)***

There might be opportunities for students to earn extra credits/bonus points.

Grading Scale

Again, a student's final course grade is based entirely on the "TOTAL POINTS" they have accumulated over the semester. Thus, for calculating a student's "TOTAL POINTS", **summation** is the only mathematical operation used; that is, the instructor will simply add up all the points a student has earned from homework assignments and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable. No percentage, proportion, or division is used in the "TOTAL POINTS" calculation. (***Important note:*** *Again, the "Total" % column or other automatically generated columns in the "Grades" area of Canvas will NOT be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course.*)

A student's "TOTAL POINTS" will then be converted into their final course grade according to the following scale:

| | | | |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|----------------------|
| A | 93.00 – 100.00 points | C | 73.00 – 76.99 points |
| A-..... | 90.00 – 92.99 points | C-..... | 70.00 – 72.99 points |
| B+..... | 87.00 – 89.99 points | D+..... | 67.00 – 69.99 points |
| B..... | 83.00 – 86.99 points | D..... | 60.00 – 66.99 points |
| B-..... | 80.00 – 82.99 points | F..... | 0.00 – 59.99 points |
| C+..... | 77.00 – 79.99 points | | |

Grade Posting

Students' grade points from homework assignments and exams, plus optional bonus points if applicable, will be posted in Canvas → "Grades" area as soon as they become available. A distinct grade item will also be created in Canvas → "Grades" area to show a student's "TOTAL POINTS" they have accumulated over the semester. (***Important note:*** *One last time, the "Total" % column or other automatically generated columns in the "Grades" area of Canvas will NOT be used, because they reflect some sort of percentage calculation, which is inconsistent with the grading system of this course. Please also see the preceding "Grading Scale" section for explanation.*) It is a student's own responsibility to check Canvas regularly and to be kept informed of their own grade status.

TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING RESOURCES

UWSP Quick Help Resources

Quick links to resource information on Canvas, Zoom, Office 365 suite, accesSPoint, and UWSP library support: [Quick Help Resources](#)

UWSP Technology Support

- UWSP IT resources and services: [Information Technology](#)
- Seek help from the [IT Service Desk](#) (Formerly HELP Desk)
 - IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
 - IT Service Desk Email: itsvdesk@uwsp.edu

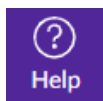
Computer Lab Hours

- (Stevens Point Campus) CCC 126
 - Monday – Friday 6:00AM – 10:00PM
 - Saturday – Sunday 7:00AM – 10:00PM
- (Stevens Point Campus) DUC 201
 - Monday – Friday 7:30AM – 11:00PM
 - Saturday – Sunday Noon – 11:00PM
- Information on Marshfield campus, Wausau campus computer labs and additional computer labs on Stevens Point campus can be found here:

<https://www3.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ComputerLabs/default.aspx>

Canvas Support

Click on the



button in the global (left) navigation menu and note the options that appear:

| Support Options | Explanations |
|---|--|
| <p>Ask Your Instructor a Question</p> <p>Submit a question to your instructor</p> | <p>Use Ask Your Instructor a Question sparingly; technical questions are best reserved for Canvas personnel and help as detailed below.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Chat with Canvas Support (Student) Live Chat with Canvas Support 24x7!</p> | <p>Chatting with Canvas Support (Student) will initiate a <i>text chat</i> with Canvas support. Response can be qualified with severity level.</p> |
| <p>Contact Canvas Support via email Canvas support will email a response</p> | <p>Contacting Canvas Support via email will allow you to explain in detail or even upload a screenshot to show your particular difficulty.</p> |
| <p>Contact Canvas Support via phone Find the phone number for your institution</p> | <p>Calling the Canvas number will let Canvas know that you're from UWSP; phone option is available 24/7.</p> |
| <p>Search the Canvas Guides Find answers to common questions</p> | <p>Searching the Canvas guides connects you to documents that are searchable by issue. You may also opt for Canvas video guides.</p> |
| <p>Submit a Feature Idea Have an idea to improve Canvas?</p> | <p>If you have an idea for Canvas that might make instructions or navigation easier, feel free to offer your thoughts through this Submit a Feature Idea avenue.</p> |

All options are available 24/7; however, if you opt to email your instructor, he may not be available immediately.

- Self-train on Canvas through the [Self-enrolling/paced Canvas training course](#)

Protecting Your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests>

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP)
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices

OTHER CLASS POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Expected Instructor Response Times

The instructor will attempt to respond to student emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply from me within 24 hours, please re-send your email.

Note: If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Course Q & A Discussion Forum found on the course homepage. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.

The instructor will attempt to grade assignments within a week, however longer assignments may take me longer to read and assess.

Online Classroom Etiquette

The online classroom is a learning environment and an academic community. All members of this community, students and instructor alike, have a special obligation to preserve an atmosphere conducive to the freedom to teach and to learn. What is essential to preserve such freedom is a culture of respect that honors the rights, safety, dignity, and worth of every individual. For that reason, all members of this community are expected to show courtesy, civility, and respect for one another.

Part of that obligation to maintain a positive learning environment is to ensure that the behaviors of any individual do not disrupt the process and flow of teaching and learning. Accordingly, students should do their best to minimize distractions and disruptions that can interfere with their own learning and that of their peers. ***Students with repeated disruptive behavior/causing repeated distractions will receive point deduction to their "TOTAL POINTS" and therefore will get a lower final course grade.***

The instructor reserves the right to restrict a student's participation in class activities, should the student behave in a way that interferes with the academic or administrative functions of the class.

Diversity and Inclusion

UWSP supports an inclusive learning environment where diversity and individual differences are understood, respected, and appreciated. These differences include race/ethnicity, gender, class, political view, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital or family status, as well as personality, learning styles, and life experiences. It is these very differences among us that enrich our learning environment and make us strong. We expect that students, faculty, administrators, and staff will respect differences and demonstrate diligence in understanding how other peoples' perspectives, behaviors,

experiences, and worldviews may be different from their own.

Disabilities/Special Needs

UWSP is committed to providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations to students with disabilities and/or special needs. If you have disabilities/special needs affecting your participation in the class and wish to have special accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. DRC will then coordinate with me in helping you receive the proper accommodations and auxiliary aids. DRC is located in the Collins Classroom Center (CCC) room 108. DRC can also be reached at 715-346-3365 or drc@uwsp.edu. You can also find more information here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/drc>.

Academic Support

If a student finds it difficult to keep up with the class progress at any point during the semester, they are recommended to seek help from the instructor immediately. When a student comes to meet the instructor in person, the student should bring all the relevant lecture notes and handout materials either in hard copy or on electronic devices in order to facilitate the consultation process.

In addition, students may also use help from the Tutoring-Learning Center (TLC) and discuss their specific needs. TLC is located in the Collins Classroom Center (CCC) room 234. TLC can also be reached by phone (715) 346-3568 or email tlctutor@uwsp.edu. The tutoring support is usually to be arranged directly between students and TLC staff and the instructor may assist with such arrangements when needed. Students can self-schedule an appointment with a TLC tutor through Navigate <https://uwsp.navigate.eab.com>. More information on TLC can be found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/tlc>.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of this institution. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and will receive disciplinary sanctions per the UWSP policies. The UWSP policies regarding student academic standards and disciplinary procedures can be found here: <https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>. If I observe academic misconduct, or if suspicions of academic dishonesty are reported to me, I will request that the identified parties to discuss the situation, and then the procedures set out in UWS/UWSP Chapter 14 will be followed.

Emergency Preparedness

It is important you familiarize yourself with the UWSP emergency plan and procedures prior to the occurrence of an emergency. Please go to www.uwsp.edu/emergency/Pages/emergency-procedures.aspx for details on all emergency responses at UWSP.

Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point occupies the lands of the Ho Chunk and Menomonee people. As a university community, it is important for us to acknowledge and honor this ancestral Ho Chunk and Menomonee land and the sacred lands of all indigenous peoples.

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COURSE OUTLINE

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Topics/Activities</u> | <u>Reading</u> |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Univariate Analysis | | |
| 01/22 – 01/28 | <p><i>Introduction to the Course</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Research Process and Variables 2. Independent and Dependent Variables 3. Levels of Measurement 4. Discrete and Continuous Variables 5. Descriptive and Inferential Statistics 6. SPSS and UWSP Remote Lab 7. GSS Dataset and Codebook | Chapter 1. |
| 01/29 – 02/04 | <p><i>Organization of Information</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frequency Distributions: Frequencies, Proportions, and Percentages 2. Construction of Frequency Distributions by Level of Measurement 3. Grouped Data/Distributions: Stated Limits, Real Limits, Midpoints of Class Intervals 4. Cumulative Distributions 5. Rates 6. Reading Statistical Tables 7. Graphic Presentation <p><i>A Basic Math Review</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inequality Notations 2. Square and Square Root 3. Order of Operations 4. Solving Linear Equations | Chapter 2. |
| | | Appendix F. |
| 02/05 – 02/11 | <p><i>Measures of Central Tendency</i></p> <p><u>Key Topics:</u></p> | Chapter 3. |

1. Mean, Mode, Median
2. Percentiles
3. The Shape of a Distribution
4. Choosing an Appropriate Measure of Central Tendency
5. Compute a (Numeric) Median for Grouped Data

02/12 – 02/18

Measures of Variability/Dispersion

Chapter 4.

Key Topics:

1. The Importance of Measuring Variability/Dispersion
2. IQV, Range, IQR
3. Variance and Standard Deviation
4. Choosing an Appropriate Measure of Variability/Dispersion

*02/21

*(Optional Zoom Meeting) Review of Assignments***02/23******* 1st Midterm Exam *** (Take-Home and in Canvas)****Bivariate Analysis**

02/26 – 03/03

Bivariate Tables/Cross-Tabulation for Categorical Variables

Chapter 9.

Key Topics:

1. Constructing a Bivariate Table
2. Analyzing a Bivariate Table
3. Properties of a Bivariate Relationship
 - a. Pattern
 - b. Strength
 - c. Direction

03/04 – 03/10

Regression and Correlation for Interval-Ratio Variables

Chapter 12.

Key Topics:

1. Linear Relationships
2. OLS Regression Line

3. Coefficient of Determination (R^2)
4. Pearson's Correlation Coefficient (r)

Preparation for Inferential Statistics

03/11 – 03/17 *The Normal Distribution* Chapter 5.

Key Topics:

1. Properties of the Normal Distribution
2. Areas under the Normal Curve
3. Standard (Z) Scores
4. The Standard Normal Table
5. Problem Solving

*03/18 – 03/24 NO CLASS! HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

*03/27 *(Optional Zoom Meeting) Review of Assignments*

03/29 * 2nd Midterm Exam *** (Take-Home and in Canvas)**

Inferential Statistics

04/01 – 04/07 *Sampling and Sampling Distributions* Chapter 6.

Key Topics:

1. Population and Sample
2. Probability Sampling
3. The Sampling Distribution
4. The Sampling Distribution of the Mean
5. The Central Limit Theorem

04/08 – 04/14 *Estimation* Chapter 7.

Key Topics:

1. Estimation Defined
2. Confidence Level and Confidence Interval
3. Confidence Intervals for Population Means
4. Confidence Intervals for Population Proportions

04/15 – 04/21 *Testing Hypotheses* Chapter 8.

Key Topics:

1. The Logic of Hypothesis Testing
2. The Five Steps in Hypothesis Testing
3. t Distribution and t Test

04/22 – 04/28 *Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)* Chapter 11.

Key Topics:

1. The Logic of ANOVA
2. The F Statistic
3. The Five Steps in ANOVA
4. Post Hoc Test

Course Wrap-Up

04/29 – 05/05 *The Chi-Square Test* Chapter 10.

Key Topics:

1. The Logic of Chi-Square Test
2. Calculation of Chi-Square
3. The Five Steps in Chi-Square Test
4. Follow-Up Analysis (Crosstabulation)
5. Limitations of Chi-Square Test

*05/08 *(Optional Zoom Meeting) Final Review*

05/15 – 05/16

***** Final Exam *** (Take-Home and in Canvas. NO SPSS!)**

*Unforeseen circumstances may necessitate changes in the course requirements and/or schedules.
Any changes will be announced in advance.*
