CRIM 3700
CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS
Fall 2015

Class Information:
Meeting Time: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 1.35-2.40
Location: 227 Richards Hall
Instructor: Professor Jacob Stowell, Ph.D.

Contact Information:
Office: 429 Churchill Hall
Office Phone: 617.373.4246
Google Voice: 415.685.3269
Email: j.stowell@neu.edu
Office Hours: 11:00-12:30 Mondays, 11:00-12:30 Thursdays, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Myunghoon Roh
Office: 502 Haydon Hall
Office Phone: 401.215.4507
Email: roh.m@husky.neu.edu
Office Hours: TBA

Required Text:

Course Description Objectives
The primary goal of this course is to introduce you to statistical techniques commonly used by criminologists and social scientists. It is useful to think of these techniques as tools that can be used to answer questions about the social world. For example, social scientists have relied on statistics to answer questions such as “Has the level of violent crime in American cities increased over the past decade?” or “Do juvenile smokers commit more delinquent acts than nonsmokers?” During this course, you will learn some of these statistical techniques and how to use them to answer questions commonly confronted by social scientists. Similarly, you will also learn how to interpret and make sense of statistical information reported in newspapers and magazines.

The techniques that we will cover in this class require an understanding of arithmetic and algebra. However, the statistics that will be covered in this class are not heavily mathematical. Even if you are not confident in you mathematical abilities, you should have little difficulty computing the various statistical measures. That said, it is important that you do not fall behind in this class. As we move through the course material, you will find that an understanding of a given topic builds on what has been covered previously. Thus, it is in your best interest to stay current on the readings, take detailed notes, and ask questions if you are unsure about a topic. Success in this class is predicated on regular attendance. If you do not attend regularly, your grade will certainly suffer.
Course Grading
There will be 450 possible points in this course. The point totals break down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Exam</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>450</td>
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Final letter grades will be based on total points achieved during the course. Letter grades will be determined in the following way:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage of Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Organization:
The primary format for this course will be lecture. Occasionally class time will be used to go over problem sets and to discuss the results of exams and homework problems.

I. Introduction to Statistics and Research Methods  Chapter 1
   • Variables
   • Theories and concepts
   • Levels of Measurement

II. Descriptive Statistics  Chapters 2-4
   • Organizing and Presenting Data
   • Measures of Central Tendency
   • Measures of Variability

First Exam will cover subject areas 1 and 2 (date tba)

III. Introduction to Inferential Statistics  Chapters 5-6
   • Introduction
   • Probability
   • The Binomial Distribution
• The Normal Curve

IV. Hypothesis Testing
• Differences Between Means and Proportions

Second Exam will cover subject areas 3 and 4 (date tba)

V. Chi Square and Non-Parametric Statistics
• Chi-Square
• Cramér’s V (our first indicator of association)

VI. Measures of Association
• Pearson's Correlation
• Partial Correlations
• Correlations and Hypothesis Testing

VII. Other Measures of Association (Time permitting)
• Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)
• Regression Analysis

Final Exam will be cumulative, but will focus mainly on subject areas 5-7 (date tba)

Grade Changes:
Every semester a student visits my office and begins the discussion by letting me know that they “need a B+ to get into law school” or “is there any way I could give them a better grade?” My philosophy regarding grade changes is simple: the final grade you receive is the one you earn. That is, the grade you receive is based solely on your performance on the course assignments/exams. I will, however, gladly submit a grade change form to the university if I make an error in the calculation of your final grade. Finally, documentation regarding extenuating circumstances is required before I will issue an incomplete grade for the course.

Academic Dishonesty:
Students are expected to do their own work in this class. Students found cheating (or plagiarizing) on any exam or assignment will receive a “0” for that assignment or exam. I will also report such cases to the appropriate University office for investigation. Below is a link to the University’s official policy on academic dishonesty:


Please note that I will try to follow this syllabus as closely as possible. However, the subjects covered and course policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and on Blackboard.