

**School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1350 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53706
SW673: Basic Statistics for Social Work
Summer 2016**

Instructor: Yonah Drazen
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Location: Social Work, Room 114
Office hours: Tuesday, 5:00pm–6:00pm and by appointment
Office: Social Work, Room 128
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I. Course Overview

In order to be effective and competent social work practitioners, it is important to have an understanding of statistics. Evidence-based practice requires that social workers not only read and understand research and the implications the results have for practice and policy, but also determine if the research is credible. In addition, social work practitioners must be able to analyze their own data and communicate the results.

II. Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should have the ability to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic functions of scientific inquiry
- Define, discuss, and utilize a range of statistical tools in terms of their purpose and the major questions they seek to answer
- State the logic underlying the use of various statistical procedures
- Apply basic descriptive statistical procedures to analyze data
- Apply selected inferential statistical procedures to analyze data
- Apply selected nonparametric statistical procedures to analyze data
- Analyze and interpret statistical data
- Embrace the scientific method

III. Course Format

Lecture

The twice-weekly lectures will be devoted to lecture, class discussions, and exercises.

Discussion Section

The discussion section will provide you with the opportunity to discuss homework and ask additional questions about class material. Section may also feature review exercises, small group work, or in-depth discussion on course content.

Section Number	Day	Time	Location
301	Tuesday & Thursday	7:10pm – 8:00pm	Social Work 114

IV. Course Content

Week 1

Tuesday, May 24

Topic: Introduction to statistics

Required reading: Chapter 1

Thursday, May 26

Topic: Frequency distributions and graphs

Required reading: Chapter 2

Week 2

Tuesday, May 31

Topic: Central tendency

Required reading: Chapter 3

HOMEWORK 1 DUE

Thursday, June 2

Topic: Measures of variability; z-scores

Required reading: Chapter 3

Week 3

Tuesday, June 7

Topic: Normal distributions

Required reading: Chapter 4

HOMEWORK 2 DUE

Thursday, June 9

Topic: Hypothesis testing

Required reading: Chapter 5

Week 4

Tuesday, June 14

Topic: Hypothesis testing continued;
sampling distributions

Required reading: Chapter 6

HOMEWORK 3 DUE

Thursday, June 16

Topics: Sampling distributions continued;

Required reading: Chapter 6

Week 5

Tuesday, June 21

Review for midterm exam

Thursday, June 23

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6

Tuesday, June 28

Topic: Analysis of variance; chi-square

Required reading: Chapters 7 & 8

HOMEWORK 4 DUE

Thursday, June 30

Topic: Chi-square continued

Required reading: Chapter 8

Week 7

Tuesday, July 5

Topic: Correlation analyses

Required reading: Chapter 9

HOMEWORK 5 DUE

Thursday, July 7

Topics: Correlation analyses continued

Required reading: Chapter 9

Week 8

Tuesday, July 12

Topic: Regression analyses

Required reading: Chapter 10

HOMEWORK 6 DUE

Thursday, July 14

Topic: Regression analyses continued

Required reading: Chapter 10

Week 9

Tuesday, July 19

Topic: Review for final exam

HOMEWORK 7 DUE

Thursday, July 21

FINAL EXAM

V. Texts and Reading Material for the Course

Required text:

Weinbach, Robert W. & Grinnell, Richard, M. (2015). Statistics for Social Workers (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

VI. Evaluation of Student Outcomes: Assignments, Grading and Methods

Grading Structure

A total of 100 points is possible and final grades will be determined as follows:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Number of Possible Points</u>
Homework (6 @ 7 points each, 1 @ 8 points)	50
Examinations (Two @ 25 points each)	50
Total	100

Points	Grade	Criteria
94-100	A	Outstanding, surpasses requirements in all areas
88-93	A/B	Surpasses requirements in many areas
82-87	B	Meets requirements in all areas
76-81	B/C	Meets requirements in some areas, below in others
70-75	C	Below requirements in most areas
64-69	D	Below requirements in all areas
<=63	F	Fails to meet minimal requirements in all areas, not acceptable

**Any student may request to meet with instructor to discuss grading and assignments. Students receiving a grade less than "C" on the midterm exam will be asked to meet with instructor to discuss strategies for performance improvement.

Homework Assignments

Seven homework assignments will be given in the course. Homework is due at the beginning of class the following Tuesday. Homework received after 6:00 p.m. the day it is due will be counted as late. Homework solutions will be discussed in discussion sections. Students are permitted to discuss homework assignments with other students in the class. However, the assignment you turn in must represent your own work. Simply copying another student's homework is not permitted and will be handled according to the procedures established by the School of Social Work's plagiarism policy. Homework problems requiring calculation should show all work (i.e., not only the final answer) - responses that do not show the calculations will be counted as incorrect.

Examinations

Two non-cumulative exams will be given in this course. Exams will cover the materials addressed in lectures and discussion. Exam questions will include multiple choice, true/false, and open-ended questions that require you to perform calculations, interpret results, and discuss statistical methods. 5-function calculators or simpler are permitted on exams.

VII. Course Policies

Attendance

Promptness

Prompt arrival to all sessions is required.

- Instructor may take actions deemed appropriate if a student is consistently tardy.
- Instructor may also consider a significantly late arrival or early departure as an absence.

Absence

To ensure a quality educational experience, students must attend and participate in classes.

- Attendance will be taken at each class and students' level of participation noted.
- Excused and unexcused absences:
 - ~ The first unexcused absence will result in a student's grade being dropped one full grade.
 - ~ The second unexcused absence will place the student at risk for failing the course.
 - ~ On a case-by-case basis, it is left to the instructor's discretion as to what is defined as an excused absence as well as to determine appropriate follow up plans.
- Students are responsible for completing any class requirements for the day missed, and for obtaining from a fellow classmate any assignments, materials, and communications missed due to absence, late arrival, or early departure.
- Students who *must* be absent due to emergencies should contact the instructor prior to the start of class to be considered for an *excused* absence.

Reading Assignments

You are expected to have read all assigned material prior to the class date under which the readings are listed above. Reading and critically evaluating what you have read is necessary so that you can learn, actively participate in class discussions, and successfully complete assignments.

Late Homework Assignment Policy

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the date specified.

Students who believe they have a legitimate reason for turning in a late assignment should contact the instructor prior to the due date. Unapproved late assignments will be marked down two points for each day they are late.

Students with Disabilities

If you require accommodations to obtain equal access to this class or to any course assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Student Behavior Policy

In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values, and beliefs. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Please respect your fellow students' opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind. Finally, remember to keep confidential all issues of a personal or professional nature discussed in class.

The instructor may adjust the syllabus on an as-needed basis if circumstances arise throughout the term. Students will be promptly notified of any change.