

# PSYC 274 - Statistics I

## Course Syllabus

### Spring 2017

Section 52450D (Lecture)  
52452R & 52454R (Lab)

Updated: 23 February 2017

**Lecture Meeting Time:** Tu & Th 11:00 - 12:20  
**Room:** Seeley G. Mudd (SGM), Room 601

**Lab Meeting Times:** Monday 12:00p - 1:50p  
Thursday 8:00a - 9:50a  
**Room:** Seeley G. Mudd (SGM), Room 631

**Instructor:** Christopher R. Beam, Ph.D.  
**Office:** Seeley G. Mudd (SGM), Room 523  
**Office Hours:** T & Th 2:00 - 3:00 (or by appointment)  
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**Teaching Assistant:** Xiaobei Zhang  
**Office:** Hedco Neurosciences Building (HNB), Room B22  
**Office Hours:** M 2:00 - 4:00 (or by appointment)  
**Email:** xiaobeiz@usc.edu

**Text:** Howell, D.C. (2017). *Fundamental statistics for the behavioral sciences (9<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.  
ISBN-13: 978-1-305-65297-2

## 1 Course Description

This course will teach you how to use statistics in the context of research. We will cover the basic concepts of statistics, scales of measurement, describing data (exploratory

data analysis), the normal distribution and probability, inferential statistics, the logic of hypothesis testing, including the merits and limitations of classic and more modern approaches, elementary research methods, t-tests, analysis of variance, correlation, simple and multiple regression, effect size, confidence intervals, power and sample size, and nonparametric tests for categorical and ranked data.

Statistics I has both lecture and laboratory components. You will learn to use statistical procedures to answer scientific questions in a systematic and convincing manner. Lecture consists of instruction and practice problems. Lab consists of learning to explore and analyze data using R computer software (<https://www.r-project.org/>). Laboratory assignments will be graded and returned by the following laboratory session.

## 1.1 Attendance & Participation

### 1.1.1 Lecture

Although attendance in lecture is not documented or graded, you are expected to attend. Whether you choose to attend lecture, you are responsible for knowing all material covered. Come to class prepared and ready to ask questions. You are expected to contribute to discussions (both voluntarily and if called upon). Course content is introduced gradually and builds on previous sessions. You can master the statistical and methodological concepts covered if you attend lecture and lab, keep up with the readings, and complete all lab and homework problem sets. Please be on-time - arriving late is disruptive to other students and instructors.

### 1.1.2 Laboratory Sessions

Lab session attendance is **mandatory**. Attendance will be taken each session by the TA instructor. Failure to attend will result in 1% lower **final** grade *per missed laboratory session*. Illnesses and emergencies will be excused with sufficient documentation (e.g., physician's note). Missing lab sessions because of athletic events or other extracurricular activities (e.g., clubs, band, service organizations) will not be excused. Schedule accordingly to make sure you attend each lab session.

## 1.2 Blackboard

All assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Announcements and emails are made via Blackboard in this course. **Routinely check the course site for updates, as you are responsible for keeping track of all updates in this course.** All grades will be posted on Blackboard. Grade discrepancies and corrections need to be made prior to the final exam. No grade changes will be made via Blackboard after the final exam.

### 1.3 Electronic Devices Policy

Electronic devices of all kinds (other than graphing and basic scientific calculators) are prohibited in this course. Electronic devices are not to be used, seen, or heard during lecture. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Calculator apps on smartphones may not be used.

Research supports that note-taking by writing, rather than by typing, improves conceptual learning (see article by Mueller & Oppenheimer (2014) on Blackboard).

**For each infraction, you will receive a 1%-point reduction from your final grade. Infractions on exam days will incur a 1%-point reduction from your final grade plus immediate dismissal from the exam room without possibility of completing your exam.**

## 2 Laboratory Sessions

Each session will consist of instruction on how to use R software execute statistical procedures and interpret results. **If you find yourself struggling with the assignments, do not wait until the end of the semester to meet with Dr. Beam or your TA for additional help; sooner is better to target problems you are having early on.**

### 2.1 Software

You will learn how to conduct descriptive and inferential statistical analyses using R (<https://www.r-project.org/>). R is a flexible platform for statistical computing that is free. While the initial learning curve for R typically is difficult, the long-term benefits consist of cultivating a more thoughtful approach to your research and statistical analyses. As an additional resource, please visit Professor Revelle's homepage: <http://www.personality-project.org/r/>. Plenty (if not all) R documentation is publicly available on Professor Revelle's website.

## 3 Student Evaluation

Course grades will be assigned based on the following assignments and examinations:

Assignment or Examination	Percentage Contribution
First Midterm Exam	25%
Second Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Laboratory Assignments	10%
Homework Problems	10%
<b>Total Grade Basis</b>	<b>100%</b>

Letter grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points earned (traditional rounding rules apply):

A: $\geq 93\%$	A-: 90-92.99	
B+: 87-89.99	B: 83-86.99	B-: 80-82.99
C+: 77-79.99	C: 73-76.99	C-: 70-72.99
D+: 67-69.99	D: 63-66.99	D-: 60-62.99
F: $\leq 59.99\%$		

The course is designed to encourage spaced learning. Two research articles on the benefits of spaced learning are available on Blackboard for further reading.

**\* Address all grade concerns early in the semester rather than later in the semester.\***

### 3.1 Homework & Lab Assignments

Each homework assignment is worth 10 points and due in person at the beginning lecture. Assignments may be hand written or typed.

Lab assignments are graded on a scale from 0-2 (2 = best score). Lab assignments follow a specific format and must be turned in (on Blackboard) as R script. **Lab assignments must be submitted via Blackboard before the beginning of your next lab session.**

\*\*\*Late assignments will not be accepted apart from illness, emergency, or university-sponsored athletic events (with acceptable documentation and approval from Dr. Beam). No exceptions. Late assignments that meet one of the above criteria must be turned in by a date and time approved by Dr. Beam\*\*\*

### 3.2 Exams

Exams include conceptual and calculation problems. A hand calculator that has a memory and can take square roots is needed for exam problems. Be sure to bring a calculator to class and to exams. Calculators may not be shared during exams. Graphing calculators are prohibited from use during exams.

You may bring a "formula reminder sheet" to exams. **This sheet is limited to 1 side of an 8.5in. x 11in. sheet of paper and may contain hand written formulas and the name of the statistical test for which the formula is used. Do not include worked examples, instructions on how to use a formula, labels for symbols in the formula, written instructions for hypothesis testing, drawings, or anything other than formulas and their names.** The sheet will be checked before the exam and must be submitted with your completed exam. The process of checking formula sheets begins five minutes prior to the official exam start time. Exams must be turned in by the official class end time (no exceptions).

## 4 Disability Services

Students requesting academic accommodations based on a disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP when adequate documentation is filed. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00, their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

## 5 Academic Integrity

All students are expected to complete their own work, including homework problems, lab assignments, and exams. You are encouraged to ask one another for help in the laboratory sessions, but every student is expected to do his or her own assignments in this class. That includes homework assignments, lab assignments, quizzes, and examinations. The classroom is crowded and it is important that you make sure you keep your eyes on your own exam! For more information on Academic Integrity consult the Trojan Integrity Guide at <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf>.

If you are caught cheating (regardless of level of involvement), you will automatically fail the course and a report will be filed with USC's Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

## 6 Course Schedule

A schedule of dates, topics and readings are shown below. Laboratory assignments and homework assignment due dates also are given below. Homework assignments are due by 11:59PM on the indicated due dates below. Lab assignments are due at the beginning of each laboratory session.

Week	Topics/Activities	Reading	Due Dates
Week 1 Tu (1/10) Th (1/12)	Syllabus & Scales of Measurement No Lecture (Dr. Beam out) <b>No lab</b>	Howell 1-2	
Week 2 Tu (1/17) Th (1/19)	Frequency Distributions, & Plotting Data Describing Data: Central Tendency & Dispersion <b>Lab 1: Introduction to R</b>	Howell 3 Howell 4-5	

Week 3 Tu (1/24) Th (1/26)	Dispersion The Normal Distribution <b>Lab 2: Data Sets &amp; Descriptive Statistics</b>	Howell 5 Howell 6	HW 1 & 2  Lab 1
Week 4 Tu (1/31) Th (2/02)	Probability Sampling Distributions <b>Lab 3: Plotting Data &amp; Normal Distribution</b>	Howell 7 Howell 8	HW 3  Lab 2
Week 5 Tu (2/07) Th (2/09)	Sampling Distributions & NHST Null-Hypothesis Significance Testing <b>Lab 4: Sampling Distributions</b>	Howell 8 TBA	HW 4  Lab 3
Week 6 Tu (2/14) Th (2/16)	Midterm I Correlation & Regression <b>Only Monday lab meets (2/13) for lab #4 to catch up</b>	Howell 9-10	
Week 7 Tu (2/21) Th (2/23)	Correlation & Regression Correlation & Regression <b>Lab 5: Correlation &amp; Regression</b>	Howell 9-10 Howell 9-10	HW 5  Lab 4
Week 8 Tu (2/28) Th (3/02)	Multiple Regression Multiple Regression <b>Lab 6: Multiple Regression</b>	Howell 11 Howell 11	HW 6  Lab 5
Week 9 Tu (03/07) Th (03/09)	Chi-Square Review Session <b>Lab 7: Chi-square tests</b>	Howell 19	HW 7
Tu (03/14) Th (03/16)	Spring Recess Spring Recess		
Week 10 Tu (03/21) Th (03/23)	<b>Second Midterm Exam</b> One sample $t$ -tests <b>Only Monday lab meets (2/13) for lab #7 to catch up</b>	Howell 12	Lab 7 (Th. only)
Week 11 Tu (03/28) Th (03/30)	Paired $t$ -tests Independent samples $t$ -tests <b>No lab</b>	Howell 13 Howell 14	HW 8  Lab 7 (Mon. only)
Week 12 Tu (04/04)	Power	Howell 15	HW 9

Th (04/06)	Power & ANOVA <b>Lab 8: Effect size &amp; Power</b>		Lab 8
Week 13 Tu (04/11) Th (04/13)	One-way ANOVA One-way ANOVA <b>No lab</b>	Howell 16 Howell 16	HW 10
Week 14 Tu (04/18) Th (04/20)	Factorial ANOVA Factorial & Repeated-Measures ANOVA <b>Lab 9: ANOVA</b>	Howell 17 Howell 17-18	HW 11 Lab 8
Week 15 Tu (04/25) Th (04/27)	Factorial & Repeated-Measures ANOVA Repeated-Measures ANOVA <b>Optional lab led by Dr. Beam to demonstrate the link between regression &amp; ANOVA</b>	Howell 17-18 Howell 18	HW 12 Lab 9
Week 16 Tu (5/09)	<b>Final Exam (11:00-1:00PM in SGM 601)</b> <b>Note change in meeting time</b>		