

# Introduction to Statistics (Psyc 274)

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Zoom private conference hours general availability: Tues. & Thurs. – 10 am to noon;

other times are available as well – students should always email and schedule time before dropping into office hours

All fields of knowledgeable endeavor use the basic principles of science. They rely on a simple directive: formulate hypotheses that can be tested with observable data. Statistics are a necessary component of this effort; they provide a valid means to summarize data, test hypotheses of interest, and interpret the results of those tests. Analysts from any field of endeavor will use statistics to try to understand how real world events or variables may be related to each other. Statistics enable us to examine large, even overwhelming amounts of data to determine whether the data offers any meaningful, interpretable information or not.

## Course Objectives

It is our goal in this course to begin to understand how and why statistics work. To realize this goal, Psyc 274 offers a series of introductory lectures, readings with representative statistical problems, and lab assignments; all of this is designed to help you become broadly familiar with *quantitative statistics* as they are calculated and interpreted in the social sciences. The important topics to be addressed will include such concepts as 1. scales of measurement and their central tendency, 2. variance, 3. hypothesis testing, 4. assumptions of analysis and ideas about distribution normality, 5. analysis of variance, 6. correlation, 7. regression, and 8. non-parametric tests. Our primary objective will be to understand these topics in a broad conceptual way while also learning how to execute specific statistical calculations. Our parallel objective will be to understand the purpose of the different statistical tests and the information that analysts hope to obtain when implementing such tests.

## Recommended Preparation

“Introduction to Psychology” (Psyc 100) and “Foundations of Statistics” (Math 114) are recommended as coursework to prepare for Psyc 274.

## Required Texts

Salkind and Frey. (2010). *Statistics for People Who (Think They) Hate Statistics – Edition 7*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publishing.

## Evaluation Criteria

Grades for this course are based on five major components. Each of these will be assessed separately and posted in the Blackboard grade-book on the basis of 100 points. This approach to posting grades provides a form of scoring with which each student should be familiar. For example: a score of 100 is the best score possible; a score of 70 indicates 70% correct; and so on. However, the proportionally weighted importance of each in computing the final total course score is not the same for each separate component.

The weighted importance for each component on your final total course grade will be as follows:

Mid-term examination I .....	13 %
Mid-term examination II.....	13 %
Mid-term examination III.....	13 %
Final Examination (comprehensive).....	20 %
Participation .....	10 %
Lab .....	16 %
Homework Problems.....	15 %

### **Cut-Points for Letter Grades**

In percentages your letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A = 93.5 (and above), A- = 89.5 to 93.4,

B+ = 86.5 to 89.4, B = 82.5 to 86.4, B- = 79.5 to 82.4,

C+ = 76.5 to 79.4, C = 72.5 to 76.4, C- = 69.5 to 72.4

D = 60 to 69.4, F = below 60.

### **Examinations**

There will be three examinations (see course schedule for dates). The examinations will test your understanding of the major concepts in the course and focus on both statistical calculations and the "big picture." All examinations are based on a combination of lecture material, class discussions, textbook information, assignments, and handouts. Each exam will be preceded by a review in lecture of the information that will be tested. In addition to this, assigned vocabulary and problems from the text book will serve as your study guides for the exams.

### **Homework in the text and Calculator**

The Salkind & Frey text book is essential for the course. Not only will the text book prepare you to better understand the lecture materials, it also contains the statistic problems and vocabulary that you are expected to turn in as homework. Homework will be evaluated on the basis of "genuine effort" rather than precisely correct answers. Thus, if your work manifests a true attempt to calculate a correct solution, you will be given full credit for the homework.

You MUST have a hand calculator that has a memory and takes square roots to execute the homework problems. Your calculator will be necessary for the exams as well. Bring your calculator to the exams.

### **Importance of Attendance**

Our understanding of statistics increases incrementally in a continuous step-wise fashion over time. You need to come to lecture and take part in the discussions if you hope to realize this incremental growth. We cover a broad range of statistical concepts in Psyc 274. The content is not difficult to understand if you read the text and come to lecture prepared to take part in the discussions.

*Participation points* will be earned during lecture by writing down responses to impromptu questions. The responses do not need to be correct to obtain full participation points; they simply need to be appropriate responses. You should bring paper on which you can write down your responses; these participation sheets will be submitted after lecture. To obtain full participation, your participation responses must be submitted before the beginning of the next lecture with your name included as the first response on the participation responses.

### **Lab**

The lab assignments have been designed to help you gain further experience with the statistical concepts that are discussed during lecture. The goals of the lab are: (1) to utilize a "hands-on" mode of learning, interacting with computer strategies, to reinforce basic statistical concepts; (2) to become knowledgeable about how to organize data and execute statistical analyses when using computer programs; and (3) to become multi-literate with respect to computer programs R, SPSS, and Excel.

Your lab grade will be comprised of two parts: typical weekly assignments and lab exams. (1) The typical assignments are evaluated on the basis of "genuine effort." Thus, if your work manifests a true attempt to correctly complete the lab work, you will be given full credit for the lab assignment. (2) There will be three short lab exams. Each lab exam will be scheduled to coincide with the timing of the lecture's mid-term exams. During that same week, the lab exam will be administered at the beginning of the regular scheduled lab. Each lab exam counts for 13% of your LAB grade. Therefore, 39% of your lab grade will result from the three lab exams and 61% of your lab grade will result from your typical weekly lab assignments. The weekly lab assignments will prepare you for the lab exams.

### **Missed assignments and/or examinations**

Missed participation/class-exercises and examinations cannot be made up and will result in a grade of zero. Students who experience medical emergencies preventing them from attending class on days where class exercises, quizzes, or examinations are scheduled are required to provide original documentation from their physicians within one week explaining their absence. USC athletes should meet with Dr. Breland by the end of the second week of the semester regarding their scheduled athletic events that may conflict with course requirements. *Students honoring religious holy days are treated in a similar fashion.* Exams will be rescheduled for those whose absences are excused. Participation

and class-exercises can be made up (when excused) by writing four-page papers on topics as assigned by Dr. Breland. You are responsible for submitting requests for these make-up assignments within one week of your absence.

### **Special Notes**

1. This course is challenging and 100% attendance is expected of all students. It is clear that students who attend class regularly, stay up with the readings, complete the assignments with full effort, and who do not leave studying until the last moment typically find that they enjoy the course more and achieve at least a C or better in this course. As in any course, work of a significantly high caliber in each of the components of this course is considered to be B (good) or A (exceptional) work.
2. All lab assignments in this course are expected to be word-processed and graphs/tables should be computer-generated. Homework may be handwritten in pen or pencil.
3. All students are expected to have access to the student computer network. It is your responsibility to ensure that your access is up-to-date during the semester.
4. Tutors may be available for this course through the Center for Academic Support (213-740-0076). If you should find that you are not doing as well in this course as you would like, please see me immediately. The longer you delay, the more you will disadvantage your ability to do well.

### **Tardy policy**

There is a large amount of material to cover in this course. Tardy students (more than 5 minutes late) are disruptive to the class, and significantly retard the flow of information. If you are warned about excessive tardiness, each time you are late for class, your course grade will be dropped by 1% on the final grade.

### **Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy**

Cell phones should be turned off during class. Computers may be used for note taking purposes only. Any other usage (such as accessing Facebook, email, gaming, or working on assignments) is not permitted and will result in disciplinary action. *Multiple infractions will result in being dropped from the course.*

### **Preparation for Lecture**

You are expected to be prepared for class by completing the required readings BEFORE class, and should be prepared to discuss that information and respond appropriately to participation point questions.

### **Notice on Intellectual Properties**

Students are held to the highest standards of ethical conduct. All the materials presented for this course in lecture, lab, discussion, sent via email, or posted on Blackboard are “all rights reserved” by the course instructor. Some of it may be copyrighted and distributed by a publishing corporation for in-class use only. You should be aware that it is a violation of student ethics to store, post, distribute, sell, or purchase any course materials with the intent of offering that material to or receive it from any student who is not presently enrolled in this course (applicable to commercial Internet sources).

### **Academic Conduct**

You may not submit work for this class that you or anyone else has presented, even in part, for this or another class. You should be especially vigilant with regard to plagiarism. Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](http://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

### **OSAS Arrangements**

Students with disabilities and/or special needs should be registered through the University Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) and should meet with Dr. Breland regarding the arrangements approved through OSAS as soon as they have obtained their accommodation letters from OSAS. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS when adequate documentation for a student’s needs has been filed. OSAS is open Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00, their phone number is (213) 740-0776.

### **Missed assignments and/or examinations**

Missed assignments and examinations cannot be made up and will result in a grade of zero unless excused due to university sanctioned reason (such as illness or death in family). Students who experience medical emergencies preventing them from completing assignments or examinations by the due dates are required to contact Dr. Breland within one week to explain their reasons. *Students honoring religious holy days are treated in a similar fashion.*

### **Support Systems**

#### ***Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call***

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. [engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling)

#### ***National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255***

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

#### ***Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call***

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. [engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp](http://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp)

#### ***Sexual Assault Resource Center***

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: [sarc.usc.edu](http://sarc.usc.edu)

#### ***Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086***

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. [equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu)

#### ***Bias Assessment Response and Support***

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support)

#### ***The Office of Disability Services and Programs***

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu)

#### ***Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710***

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. [studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa](http://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa)

#### ***Diversity at USC***

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. [diversity.usc.edu](http://diversity.usc.edu)

#### ***USC Emergency Information***

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu)

#### ***USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321; HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or report crime.***

Provides overall safety to USC community. [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

**Psyc 274 Course Schedule**

<b>Wk #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Labs</b>	<b>Assigned Readings</b>
1	8/22	Introduction to class; Foundational Concepts	No Lab during first week of semester	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr. 1, 2</i>
2	8/29	Descriptive Statistics of Sample Data Measures of Central Tendency & Variability	Lab 1: Introduction to the Lab and Lab computer software	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 2, 3</i>
3	9/5	<b><i>Monday – University Holiday – Labor Day</i></b> Constructing Visual Summaries of Distributions; Defining Normal, Non-normal, Skewed Distributions	Lab 2: Scales, Distributions, and Graphs	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 4</i>
4	9/12	Probability, and Standard Scores; Use of Statistics for Inference and Estimation	Lab 3: Measures of Central Tendency and Dispersion	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 8</i>
5	9/19	<b><i>* Mid-Term Exam during 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture</i></b> Review Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 8	<b><i>1<sup>st</sup> 60 minutes of Lab:</i></b> <b><i>Lab Mid-Term Exam</i></b> Lab 4: Characteristics of Normal Distributions	<u>Review Readings &amp; Homework for Midterm Exam</u>
6	9/26	Return of Exams and Discussion Introduction to Null Hypothesis Significance Testing	Lab 5: Hypothesis Testing	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 7 &amp; 9</i>
7	10/3	Overview of Research Methodology Testing hypotheses of Population Means Testing differences between two groups	Lab 6: Independent Samples vs. Paired- Sample t-tests	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 10 &amp; 11</i>
8	10/10	<b><i>Thur. &amp; Fri. – University Holiday – Fall Recess</i></b> One Factor, Between Subject Analysis of Variance Designs	Lab 7: TAKE-HOME LAB One-factor Between Subjects Analysis of Variance	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>(Skim-read Chptr 12)</i> <i>Chptr 13</i>

Wk #	Date	Lectures	Labs	Assigned Readings
9	10/17	* <i>Mid-Term Exam during 2<sup>nd</sup> lecture</i> Review Chapters 7, 9, 10, 11, (12), 13	<i>1<sup>st</sup> 60 minutes of Lab:</i> <i>Lab Mid-Term Exam</i>	<u>Review Readings &amp; Homework for Midterm Exam</u>
10	10/24	Return of Exams and Discussion Two-Factor Between Subjects ANOVA	Lab 8: Two-way Analysis of Variance	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 14</i>
11	10/31	Factorial ANOVA (continued) Chi-square: Analysis of Frequency Data	Lab 9: Chi-square tests of independence vs. goodness-of-fit	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 17</i>
12	11/7	Correlations Pearson's r vs. Spearman's Rho	Lab 10: Correlation, Tests of variable relationships	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 5 &amp; 15</i>
13	11/14	Regression, prediction, and linear equations Multiple Regression	Lab 11: Regressions, Equations of Prediction	<u>Reference: Text</u> <i>Chptr 16</i> <i>(Skim-read Chptr 18)</i>
14	11/21	<i>Thanksgiving – University Holiday – Wed thru Fri</i> * <i>Mid-Term Exam during 1st lecture</i> Review Chapters 14, 17, 5 & 15, 16, (& 18)	<i>1<sup>st</sup> 60 minutes of Lab:</i> <i>Lab Mid-Term Exam</i> Lab 12: Multiple Regression	<u>Review Readings &amp; Homework for Midterm Exam</u>
15	11/28	Return of Exams and Discussion <u>Review of the Course</u>	Lab 13: Lab Wrap-up	<u>Reference:</u> <i>All Readings, Lectures, Homework, Midterms, and Lab Work</i>

Wk #	Date	FINAL EXAM	Labs	Assigned Readings
Final Exam	→	Lecture Section 52450 (MW 3:30 pm) <u>Exam on Monday 12/12 2 pm – 4 pm</u>	< NO LAB >	Cumulative Exam