

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROFESSOR INFORMATION



Instructor: Qing Lai
Office: SIPA 313
Office Hours: By Appointment
E-mail: qlai@fiu.edu
Website: <https://gss.fiu.edu/people/faculty/qing-lai/>

Please use email for all course-related communications.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE

In this course we will study the basic logics and skills of quantitative data analysis in social research. We will focus on various statistical techniques, but also gain some exposure to common public-use data sources as well as survey research in social sciences. This course maintains a strong emphasis on the social background of data analysis. All class examples and assignments pertain to social, demographic, or economic issues. You will become familiar with the conventions of quantitative analysis in social research, as well as the common pitfalls. By the end of the course, you are expected to have sufficient background to critically evaluate the research claims made in academic work and mass media. You do not need previous statistical computing experience to do well in this course, nor do you have to be a "math-oriented" person. Students who apply good study skills — consistently reading assigned texts and completing all assignments on time — can expect to do well in the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Describe the distribution of social variables.
- Classify scales of measurement and apply appropriate methods to analyze data.
- Understand statistical inference.
- Evaluate research hypotheses by conducting various statistical tests.
- Explain bivariate relationships using correlation and regression methods

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

POLICIES

Please review the [FIU's Policies](#) webpage. The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & SKILLS

One of the greatest barriers to taking an online course is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently, and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily. Keep in mind that this is not a computer literacy course; but students enrolled in online courses are expected to have moderate proficiency using a computer. Please go to the "[What's Required](#)" webpage to find out more information on this subject.

This course is chiefly based on Cengage Learning's MindTap online textbook system. Canvas is used to distribute course syllabus and miscellaneous materials only. All class announcements will be sent to your FIU email account with "SYA 3400" in the subject line.

Please visit our [Technical Requirements](#) webpage for additional information.

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

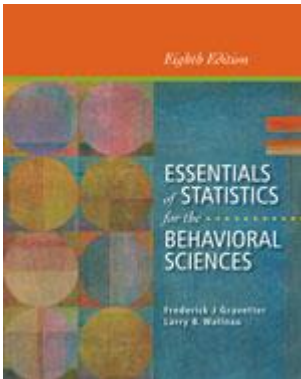
Please visit our [ADA Compliance](#) webpage for information about accessibility involving the tools used in this course.

For additional assistance please contact FIU's [Disability Resource Center](#).

COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

TEXTBOOK



(REQUIRED) Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (MindTap Version for 8th Edition*)

Author: Frederick J. Gravetter; Larry B. Wallnau

Cengage Learning; 2014

ISBN: 9781285513751

What is MindTap?

MindTap is designed to help you master the material. Interactive videos, animations, and activities create a learning path designed by your instructor to guide you through the course and focus on what's important.

Registration

1. Connect to <https://studentdashboard.cengagebrain.com/#/course-confirmation/MTPNX0KP2KCM/initial-course-confirmation>
2. Follow the prompts to register your MindTap course. **Make sure to use your FIU email account to register.**
3. Please note that this is the most reliable method to register with MindTap. Previous purchases made at FIU Bookstore have caused problems with access to the MindTap system.

Free Trial

If you are unable to pay at the start of the semester you may choose to access MindTap until 11:59 PM on 01/22/2018 during your free trial. After the free trial ends you will be required to pay for access.

Please note: At the end of the free trial period, your course access will be suspended until your payment has been made. All your scores and course activity will be saved and will be available to you after you pay for access.

System Check

To check whether your computer meets the requirements for using MindTap, go to

<http://ng.cengage.com/static/browsercheck/index.html>

Please Note: the System Check is also accessible in the drop down box next to your name located in the upper right corner of your MindTap page.

EXPECTATIONS OF THIS COURSE

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Review and follow the course calendar (at the end of the syllabus)
- Log in to the course **at least twice** per week
- Check FIU email accounts **every two days** for potential class announcements
- Submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

The instructor will:

- Log in to the course **twice** per week
- Respond to **students' emails** within **3 days**
- Grade assignments within **3 days** of the assignment deadline

COURSE DETAIL

COURSE COMMUNICATION

Communication in this course will take place via **Email**.

Visit our [Writing Resources webpage](#) for more information on professional writing and technical communication skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As detailed in the Course Calendar, this online course consists of 13 topics. We will cover one topic per week for the first 13 weeks except for the spring break. The last 2 weeks (i.e., Weeks 14-15) will be devoted to a more challenging final chapter. For each topic, students are required to read the assigned book chapter, complete the practice problem set, and take the chapter quiz. Only quizzes will be graded, leading to a total of 13 graded quizzes. Each quiz yields 30 points. The final course grade is calculated by averaging the percentage score across all the 13 quizzes. In other words, all quizzes are weighted equally.

Book Chapter: To achieve the best learning effect, students should read the assigned chapter for each topic prior to completing the problem set and the quiz. The chapters will be made available via MindTap at the beginning of each week.

Practice Problem Set: Each chapter/topic comes with a practice problem set, consisting of a different number of items. After reading the corresponding book chapters, students are expected to use the problems to test their understanding of the topic, and to prepare for the chapter quiz. The practice problem sets will not be graded, but

are very important components of online learning. When working on the problems, students have unlimited attempts until they arrive at the correct answer. After supplying their own answers, students may click on the "Check Answer" icon at the bottom to view the results and the explanations for each item. Students are expected to finish the practice problem set of each chapter before taking the quiz.

Quiz: Each quiz can be taken twice. If students are not satisfied with their first attempt, they have a chance to take it for a second time. The better grade will be recorded for the calculation of the final course grade. For each question, students may click on "Check my Work" to see if they have selected/supplied the correct answer, but this feature can only be used once for each question. There is no time limit for all the quizzes. As the overall course grade is based entirely on the 13 chapter quizzes, it is crucial to submit all quizzes on time. The due dates (see Course Calendar below) are firm. There would be no make-up opportunities beyond each due date.

[Optional] Problem Demonstrations & Problem Tutorials: Besides the above three required components, each chapter also comes with a selected list of problem demonstrations and tutorials. Students are encouraged, but not required, to go through all those short instructional materials before they start to work on the practice problem set.

GRADING

Graded Course Requirements		Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes		13	30	390	100%
Total		13	30	390	100%
Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)	Letter	Range (%)
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	1/8-14	Introduction to Statistics			
		Book Chapter 1	Assigned 1/8	Due 1/14	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 1	Assigned 1/8	Due 1/14	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 1	Assigned 1/8	Due 1/14	Graded
Week 2	1/15-21	Frequency Distribution			
		Book Chapter 2	Assigned 1/15	Due 1/21	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 2	Assigned 1/15	Due 1/21	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 2	Assigned 1/15	Due 1/21	Graded
Week 3	1/22-28	Measures of Central Tendency			
		Book Chapter 3	Assigned 1/22	Due 1/28	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 3	Assigned 1/22	Due 1/28	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 3	Assigned 1/22	Due 1/28	Graded
Week 4	1/29-2/4	Measures of Variability			
		Book Chapter 4	Assigned 1/29	Due 2/4	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 4	Assigned 1/29	Due 2/4	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 4	Assigned 1/29	Due 2/4	Graded
Week 5	2/5-11	z-Scores: Locations of Scores and Standardized Distributions			
		Book Chapter 5	Assigned 2/5	Due 2/11	Not Graded

		Practice Problem Set Chapter 5	Assigned 2/5	Due 2/11	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 5	Assigned 2/5	Due 2/11	Graded
Week 6	2/12-18	Probability			
		Book Chapter 6	Assigned 2/12	Due 2/18	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 6	Assigned 2/12	Due 2/18	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 6	Assigned 2/12	Due 2/18	Graded
Week 7	2/19-25	Probability and Samples: The Distribution of Sample Means			
		Book Chapter 7	Assigned 2/19	Due 2/25	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 7	Assigned 2/19	Due 2/25	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 7	Assigned 2/19	Due 2/25	Graded
Week 8	2/26-3/4	Introduction to Hypothesis Testing			
		Book Chapter 8	Assigned 2/26	Due 3/4	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 8	Assigned 2/26	Due 3/4	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 8	Assigned 2/26	Due 3/4	Graded
Week 9	3/5-11	Introduction to the t Statistic			
		Book Chapter 9	Assigned 3/5	Due 3/11	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 9	Assigned 3/5	Due 3/11	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 9	Assigned 3/5	Due 3/11	Graded
Week 10	3/12-18	Spring Break			
Week 11	3/19-25	The t Test for Two Independent Samples			
		Book Chapter 10	Assigned 3/19	Due 3/25	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 10	Assigned 3/19	Due 3/25	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 10	Assigned 3/19	Due 3/25	Graded
Week 12	3/26-4/1	The t Test for Two Related Samples			
		Book Chapter 11	Assigned 3/26	Due 4/1	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 11	Assigned 3/26	Due 4/1	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 11	Assigned 3/26	Due 4/1	Graded
Week 13	4/2-8	The Chi-Square Statistic: Test for Goodness of Fit and Independence			
		Book Chapter 15	Assigned 4/2	Due 4/8	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 15	Assigned 4/2	Due 4/8	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 15	Assigned 4/2	Due 4/8	Graded
		*11/10 Veteran's Day			
Week 14	4/9-15	Correlation			
		Book Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Graded
Week 15	4/16-21	Correlation (continued)			
		Book Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Not Graded
		Practice Problem Set Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Not Graded
		Quiz Chapter 14	Assigned 4/9	Due 4/21	Graded