GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

Course Information

STAT 1053-12 Introduction Statistics for the Social Sciences
FALL 2015

Lectures:  Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:45PM – 5:00 PM at Funger 108

Instructor: Dr. Srinivasan Balaji

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 PM– 3:00 PM, Thursdays 2:00 PM- 3:00 PM and by appointment.

Lab: The class is divided into 5 sections (Stat 1053-35 through Stat 1053-39) of around 30 students each for lab sessions. These sessions meet at varied times on Tuesdays and please make sure that you attend the lab for which you are enrolled. The TA’s will administer the quizzes during the lab. They will also have office hours, which will be informed soon.

Course Description

The course will cover the basics of Statistics, Probability and their applications in the social sciences. The main topics to be covered include Descriptive Statistics for univariate and bivariate data, probability and random variables, Binomial and normal distributions, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing, correlation and regression. Most of the optional sections will be skipped.


Note: You will also need a calculator to do the problems.

Software: SPSS. It is available in all the computer labs at GWU and also downloadable through Cloud.
Blackboard: I will be posting the lecture notes in the blackboard. I will also be communicating and sending updates to students using blackboard. Please check your emails regularly and read them carefully. I will also be posting SPSS project, Homework problems, etc., in the blackboard. Students will receive an email after I post the materials in the blackboard.

Prerequisites

The course does not require any background in Calculus. Basic knowledge of Algebra and Arithmetic are sufficient.

Quizzes and Homework

Homework problems will be assigned for the entire course from the text and you are expected to work through the problems every week based on the materials covered for that week. This semester we will also be using MyStatLab for the homework assignments and the details will be provided in class.

There will be a 15 to 20 minute quiz during each lab, based on the topics covered in the previous week. The quizzes will be graded and will count towards the final grade. Sometimes you may be given a take-Home quiz in place of an in-class quiz. The lowest quiz/homework assignment score will be dropped.

SPSS Project

There will be an SPSS project consisting of one or two problems, where you will be using the SPSS software to do the problems. SPSS project will be given after the midterm exam and will be due on the final exam day. SPSS is available in all the labs at GWU.

Exams

There will be a closed book midterm and a closed book Final exam.

Pop Quizzes and Attendance

There will be some unannounced pop quizzes given in the class. It will be based on the material taught in that particular class. Usually, it will be a simple problem that tests your understanding of the class. The total score for each pop quiz will be 2 points with 1 point for the correctness and 1 for turning it in. A total of 5 pop quizzes will be counted towards the final grade.

Midterm Exam: Thursday, October 15, 2015, 3:45 – 5:00 PM
Final Exam: To be announced (Will be during the Final exam week)

Grading Policy

Final grade is computed as follows:

Homework Assignments (MyStatLab): 20%
Quizzes: 20%
Pop Quizzes and Attendance: 5%
SPSS Project: 5%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the semester you should be able to:

--Apply laws of probability

--Construct and interpret large-sample and small-sample confidence intervals

--Evaluate evidence for and against hypotheses using statistical tests

--Find the least-squares equation for simple linear regression and assess the utility of the model

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance for the class is not mandatory. However I expect you to attend the classes without fail. I suggest that you inform me at least one day prior to your absence. If you are sending me emails regarding attendance write the subject to be Attendance or Absence. In my several years of experience, I have observed that students who do not come to classes regularly perform poorly in the exams and quizzes.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states:: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html
SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals
http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

SECURITY
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

Note: Stat 1051, 1053, 1091, 1104, 1111, 1127 are similar courses and credit for only one of these courses can be given. Please contact me for further details.