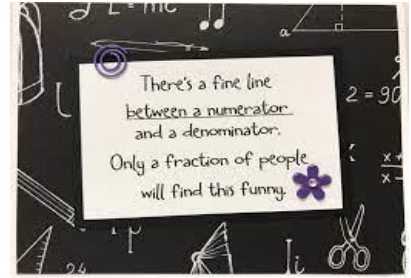


SOCI 271 ¹

Introduction to Social Statistics



Instructor: Ruth Kampen (rkampen@uvic.ca), Office Hours: TBD

First off, I know most Sociology students are not particularly keen on taking a course that requires math, but I will do my best to make this course approachable and (hopefully) interesting and relevant! You don't need to remember high school algebra or calculus to do well. 😊

Course Description:

This course introduces statistical methods for describing and analyzing quantitative data in sociology. Broadly speaking, it covers three major components: 1) graphical approaches to displaying data, 2) descriptive statistics for summarizing data, and 3) inferential statistics for generalizing beyond sample data to make predictions. This course focuses on univariate analysis (e.g., distribution and description of a single variable) and bivariate analysis (e.g., relationship between two variables).

An additional mandatory aspect of this course includes a weekly 50 minute lab session (all student must register for a lab section). Labs will take place in one of the computing facilities on campus. The lab portion will teach you how to use a software package, SPSS, to conduct data analysis. The labs are designed to reinforce the material you are learning in the lecture. More information will be provided about the lab expectations on the first day of class.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

The main focus of this course is on statistical methods commonly used in the analysis of social science data. It will not go into technical details about statistical theory. The goal of this course is primarily to a) help students better understand reports and academic articles that use quantitative evidence, and b) to prepare students to conduct elementary statistical analysis which will be required in future core courses (i.e., Soci 376), and possibly for their own research or future employment.

Course Evaluation:

The course is arranged so that there are various opportunities and methods to show you are grasping the concepts and calculations. Evaluation of your progress in this course will be assessed through in-class tests (two midterms) and a final exam as well as homework assignments (based on lab and course content).

Required Textbook (e-book or hardcopy will be available):

Healey, J.F., Donoghue, C., & Prus, S. (2023). *Statistics: A Tool for Social Research and Data Analysis*. 5th Ed. Cengage Learning Canada, Inc. (a 3rd or 4th edition of the textbook is also acceptable)

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.