Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the mathematical techniques that are used by social science researchers to organize, summarize, and interpret the results from their research studies. During the semester you will be required to know how to do each of the individual statistical procedures, and you will be required to demonstrate your ability on weekly homework assignments, weekly quizzes, and two exams. In the long term, you should understand why the different statistical methods have been developed (what purpose they serve, the circumstances in which they are used, and what questions they answer).

Course Requirements

Your grade in the course will be based on my evaluation of your performance in the following five areas, each listed with their respective weight to your final grade:

- Weekly Online Quizzes (10%)
- Weekly Problem Sets (25%)
- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (35%)
- Attendance (5%)

**Weekly Online Quizzes.** The day following each lecture, I will place a set of questions on the course BlackBoard for you to complete. You will have until Sunday at 11:59PM to complete the online quizzes. These questions are designed to prepare you well for the midterm and final exams. You are free to use your books and notes for these quizzes. Failure to complete the quizzes by the scheduled deadline will result in no credit for that particular quiz.

**Weekly Problem Sets.** The day following each lecture, I will place a set of problems from the end of the most recent chapter(s) we covered for you to complete. I ask that you write up your answers to these problems in Microsoft Word, Correl WordPerfect, or a document converted into pdf format and email them to me. Documents in any other format will not be opened or graded. You will have until 9:00AM the Monday following the day the assignment is given to complete the problem set. Failure to complete the problem set by the assigned deadline will result in no credit for that particular assignment.

**Midterm Exam.** The midterm exam will cover material we have covered up to that point in time on the syllabus. The midterm exam is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11 during our scheduled class time.

**Final Exam.** Date/Time/Location TBA. The Final Exam will be cumulative.
**Attendance.** Active attendance is critical to understanding the material covered in the course, doing well on the exams, and completing the quizzes and problem sets in an efficient manner. Nevertheless, I feel slightly compelled to entice you to do well in the course by offering a modest amount of credit for attendance. One point will be given for each full lecture you attend. If you arrive late to class or leave early (regardless of how late or how early), you will receive half a point. Obviously, if you do attend class, you will receive no points.

**Course Policies**

**Absences**

With a course of this size, I cannot review lecture material for students on an individual basis. It is expected that students who miss a lecture should rely upon their fellow students for lecture notes. **Make up exams will NOT be given. Exceptions will be granted for extreme circumstances, which must be documented and approved by me.** In other words, just because you feel you have an extreme circumstance it does not necessarily mean I will view it as a valid excuse.

**Late Assignments**

Assignments must be turned in by the scheduled deadline. There will be no exceptions.

**Incompletes**

It is my policy not to grant incompletes other than for extreme circumstances approved by me. Again, an extreme circumstance in your mind may not constitute a valid excuse in my view.

**Academic Misconduct**

This should go without saying: Any form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and at a minimum will result in failure of the course. Go to [http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/sta/sta104-01.html](http://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/sta/sta104-01.html) to see what constitutes academic misconduct according to Arizona State University and the legal sanctions that will be imposed. Quite simply, it is against Arizona state law for any form of academic misconduct. I will strictly enforce all policies in manual STA 104-01.

**Disability Resources**

In order to be fair, it is imperative that students with disability accommodation requests first clear such requests with the office of Disability Resources for Students as I am not a qualified medical professional on such matters. This office works closely with both students and instructors to be sure all accommodations are fair and adequate.

**Other Notes of Importance**

I, as the instructor of this course, reserve the right to make modifications to this syllabus during the course of the semester.
Textbook

I have made the following book available for purchase from the university book store. There is an associated BlackBoard access key for the course included with the textbook that is required for you to access the course BlackBoard. Both are required for this course.


Software

In an era with increasingly superior computing power, it makes little sense for you to “crunch numbers” by hand all the time. We will take advantage of the glorious era we will live in and utilize a statistical software package frequently used by political scientists. Having you learn the basics of this software will be one of the main goals of this course. We will collectively choose one of two software packages during the first week of class; each package has their own associated costs and benefits that we will also discuss during the first week.

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Aug 23: Introduction; Chapter 1
Week 2 - Aug 30: Chapter 1, Chapter 2
Week 3 - Sep 6: Chapter 3
Week 4 - Sep 13: Chapter 4
Week 5 - Sep 20: Chapter 5
Week 6 - Sep 27: Chapter 6
Week 7 - Oct 4: Chapter 7
Week 8 - Oct 11: Midterm Exam
Week 9 - Oct 18: Chapter 8
Week 10 - Oct 25: Chapter 9
Week 11 - Nov 1: Chapter 10, Chapter 11
Week 12 - Nov 8: Chapter 12
Week 13 - Nov 15: Chapter 13
Week 14 - Nov 22: Chapter 15
Week 15 - Nov 29: Chapter 15, Chapter 16
Week 16 - Dec 6: Catch-up, Summary, Review, etc