

Quantitative Methods (S)

Sociology and Anthropology 355

Section: D100

Term: 2009 Fall

Instructor: Mariana Gatzeva

Email:

Office:\x09AQ

Discussion Topics: This course provides an introduction to quantitative methods commonly used in the social sciences. The course considers standard topics: graphical and tabular displays of variables and their association, an introduction to statistical inference, and commonly arising applications such as the t-test, the two-way contingency table, and the basics of regression. All statistical ideas will be embedded in case studies. For each case study, we will consider the issues motivating the research, the key research questions, and reports of findings. We will then re-analyze the data using techniques described above and, based on this reanalysis, we will critically evaluate the validity of inferences previously drawn. Thus, the course will consider all statistical choices and inferences in the context of the broader logic of inquiry with the aim of strengthening our understanding of that logic and general familiarization with the statistical methods. By the end of the course, students 1) will be able to understand and evaluate quantitative research, 2) will have working knowledge of social science quantitative research methods, and 3) will have gained practical experience of data analysis using SPSS.

Grading: Grades will be based on points accumulated on class assignments, classroom participation, a mid-term exam, and a final project. There will be 100 total possible points, distributed as follows:

Mid-term	\x09\x09\x0925 points
4 Assignments	\x09\x0940 points (10 points each)
Final project	\x09\x0925 points
Classroom participation	\x0910 points

There will be four homework assignments. Students may work in groups (of no more than three people) on these assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted. The final project will involve writing a brief research report based on the reanalysis of an existing study and must be done individually.

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices, grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).

Required Texts: Agresti, Alan, and Barbara Finley. 1997. Statistical methods for the Social Sciences, fourth edition. Prentice Hall.

Additional readings for the case studies will be assigned on a case by case basis (not more than 3-4 journal articles). Software: SPSS (for PC)

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Quantitative Methods (S)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: STAT 203 or equivalent and SA 255. Students with credit for SA 355 may not take POL 315 for further credit. Quantitative.

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFUs policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

This outline is derived from a course outline repository database that was maintained by SFU Student Services and the University's IT Services Department. The database was retired in 2014 and the data migrated to SFU Archives in 2015.