

## **Advanced Quantitative Methods in Sociology**

Sociology and Anthropology 855

Section: G100

Term: 2010 Spring

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Discussion Topics: Quantitative methods have a rich history in social research. They have formed an important component of critical research strategies which aim to explore questions of human rights, poverty, inequality, discrimination and power. This course explores how advanced quantitative methods are used in the contemporary literature (focusing for the most part on sociology and social epidemiology). The course builds from an understanding of univariate and bivariate statistics and examines a range of multivariate strategies: ordinary least squares regression, logistic, ordinal, and multinomial models, and hierarchical (multilevel) regression. The course revolves around a close reading of the research literature and hands-on application of statistical analysis; as such, the emphasis is on critically evaluating published work and setting up / interpreting analyses. It is for the most part an applied course, aimed at students in the social sciences who are interested and want to learn more about the use of quantitative methods.

Grading: (Note: Instructions and marking criteria will differ between 455 & 855 students)

30% - Reading reports (2 reports, each worth 15%)

20% - Lab assignments (2 in-class assignments, each worth 10%)

10% - Proposal (in the form of an oral presentation)

10% - Presentation (poster)

30% - Project paper

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: Pevalin, D. & Robson, K. (2009). The Stata Survival Manual. Berkshire: McGraw-Hill.

Other readings (journal articles) will be available online through the SFU library.

Recommended Texts: Other texts and journal articles will be recommended throughout the semester.

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: For SA 455-4 minimum of 72 units including SA 301 or 350. For 855-5 An upper division undergraduate course in quantitative methods which covers statistical analysis (including probability and significance, hypothesis testing, and univariate and bivariate techniques) or permission of the instructor.

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>

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