

# Quantitative Methods in Psychology I

## PSY 507, Fall 2013, CRN#49266



### **INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Michael C. Hout**

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Office hours: Mondays and Tuesdays, 10:30 – 12:00 pm (or by appointment)

Classroom: Science Hall 216; MWF, 9:30 – 10:20 am

Computer lab: Science Hall 267 (most Wednesdays)

### **TEACHING ASSISTANT: Dr. Paola Gava**

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Office: Science Hall, 311

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 – 12:30 pm (or by appointment)

**Please review this syllabus and Canvas before you send an email.** Most of your questions can be answered using this document.

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

**1) Textbook:** Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition by Frederick J. Gravetter and Larry B. Wallnau. ISBN-13: 978-1-133-95657-0. ISBN-10: 1-133-95657-2. I may also periodically assign other research articles or readings, which I will post on Canvas.

**2) Canvas:** Everything you need to know about this course can be found on Canvas at <https://learn.nmsu.edu>. This includes the syllabus, grades, readings (other than the book), homework assignments, computer labs, and all other course material. I will also post announcements occasionally. Content on the Canvas site will be updated constantly as we progress through the course. It is your responsibility to check Canvas on a regular basis! That means once per day (preferably in the morning, especially on days when you have class).

**3) Study Resources:** I very strongly encourage you to make friends in this course. Other students can often be helpful study partners, and can provide you with notes in case you

need to miss class. I will NOT repeat lectures for you if you are absent, so you must acquire notes from another student if you are to miss class. If you encounter any difficulties keeping up with the course content, come to meet with me sooner (rather than later). I'm happy to help out, but be prepared to meet with me, and leave adequate time before the next exam, end of semester, etc.

### **COURSE GOALS:**

This course is intended to provide you with a strong foundation in basic statistics. Much of the material will likely be review for most of you, but the aim of this course is to ensure that all of you are on equal footing when you reach the more advanced statistics courses in this sequence (i.e., ANOVA and Regression). My hopes are that you will acquire an ample understanding of the theory behind numerous statistical procedures that are commonly implemented in the psychology literature, and that you will be able to compute and interpret these statistics for yourselves. I'm excited to teach this course, and I hope you're excited to take it.

### **COURSE FORMAT:**

This course will include a combination of traditional lectures, with more hands-on "labs", and online assignments. Often, I will lecture on Mondays and Fridays. On Wednesdays, I will frequently provide laboratory tutorials on how to implement statistical procedures in Microsoft Excel, or will engage you in online activities/assignments. I encourage class participation throughout. The online activities will include computer labs and online discussions/collaborations. The goal of the computer labs is to allow you a chance to implement the statistical procedures that you learn about in lecture. Microsoft Excel will be used in all the labs (when you reach the higher courses in this series, you will switch to SAS).

Prior to each class, I will post my lecture slides online. If I cannot make the slides available 24 hours prior to the start of class, I will print handouts for each of you. All of the homework and lab material will be made available on Canvas.

### **GRADING POLICIES:**

**Exams:** The exams will make up just over half of your overall grade in this course (60%). There will be three non-cumulative exams, each worth 20% of your overall grade. You will be responsible for knowing all material covered in lecture, and all assigned material, including readings other than the book. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and exercise questions. Each exam is take-home, meaning it is open-book,

and open-note. You cannot, however, collaborate with other students! Working with another person on any portion of the exam will constitute cheating and plagiarism. See below for consequences of cheating. I will post each exam on a Friday morning (by 9am), and it must be turned in online by the following Monday (at 9am).

If, for any reason, you cannot complete the exam over the weekend in which it is assigned, you must contact me at least 24 hours before the exam starts, to schedule a make-up. Only documented medical excuses will be accepted, and the make-up exam will be different from that which your classmates received. The make-up must be taken within 1 week of the original exam date. Failure to inform me 24 hours in advance, or failure to take the exam within 1 week of the scheduled date will result in a grade of zero. This is non-negotiable.

### **Exam Schedule:**

- 1) September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013: Covers Section 1 and readings
- 2) November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013: Covers Section 2 and readings
- 3) December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013: Covers Section 3 and readings

**Homework:** When learning statistics, I've found that repetition is the best way to absorb the material. That being said, homework will be a large part of the learning process. You will be given 10 homework assignments, worth a total of 30% of your grade (thus, each assignment is worth 3% of your overall grade). You will have one week to complete each homework assignment, and late assignments will not be accepted unless you arrange with me prior to the homework being assigned. These assignments will be a combination of handwritten and computer-based tasks.

**Computer Labs:** Most computer labs will involve hands-on learning in Microsoft Excel. Occasionally, you will complete independent labs for course credit. There will be 4 of these, worth a total of 10% of your grade (thus, each lab is worth 2.5% of your overall grade). These labs are designed to give you a practical understanding of the statistics you are learning in this course. For each lab assignment, you will turn in a spreadsheet for credit.

**Grade calculation:** Each task will be graded on a 100-point scale, and weighted according to the standards stated above. Thus, you can calculate your grade using the following formula:

$$\text{Grade} = .60(\text{Exam Average}) + .30(\text{Homework Average}) + .10(\text{Lab Average})$$

Final letter grades are assigned as follows:

Percentage	Letter Grade
> 89.5%	A
79.5 – 89.5%	B
69.5 – 79.5%	C
59.5 – 69.5%	D
< 59.5%	F

Incompletes (I Grades): The grade of I (incomplete) is given for passable work that could not be completed due to circumstances beyond the student's control. The "I" grade will not be used to avoid a student receiving a D or F grade.

### **DISABILITIES:**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) cover issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken

Student Accessibility Services (SAS) - Corbett Center, Rm. 244

Phone: 646.6840 E-mail: [sas@nmsu.edu](mailto:sas@nmsu.edu)

Website: [www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/](http://www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/)

### **DISCRIMINATION:**

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX or NMSU's complaint process contact:

Gerard Nevarez or Agustin Diaz

Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House

Phone: 646.3635 E-mail: [equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)

Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

## **CHEATING/PLAGIARISM POLICY:**

Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct and are subject to disciplinary action such as failure on the assignment, failure of the course or dismissal from the university. The NMSU Library has more information and help on how to avoid plagiarism at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

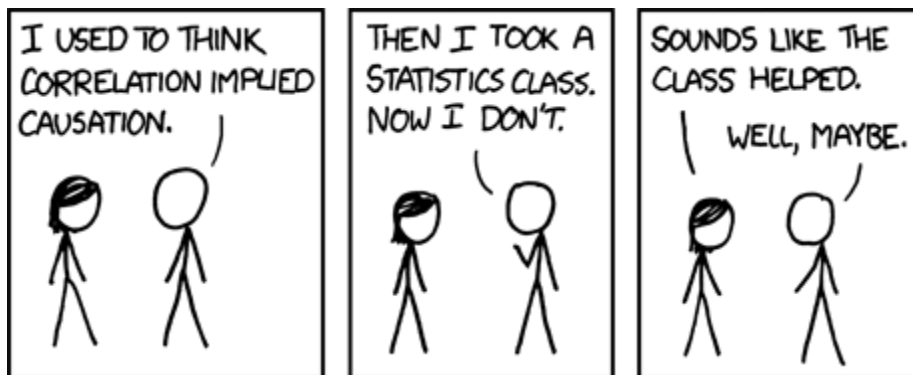
September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013: Labor Day, no class

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013: Last day to drop the course and receive a “W”

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving break, no class

## **DISCLAIMER:**

This syllabus is subject to change without notice!



## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE BELOW!**

JUL SEP

## AUGUST 2013

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT/SUN
			01	02	03 04
05	06	07	08	09	10 11
12	13	14	15	16	17 18
19	20	21	22	23 First day of class.	24 25
26	27	28	29	30 Hmwk 1	31

AUG OCT

## SEPTEMBER 2013

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT/SUN
					01
Labor Day, no class!	03	04	05	06 Hmwk 2	07 08
09	10	11	12	13 Hmwk 3	14 15
16	17	18 Lab Work 1	19	20 Hmwk 4	21 22
23	24	25	26	27 Exam 1 Assigned	28 29
30 Exam 1 Due					

SEP NOV

## OCTOBER 2013

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT/SUN
	01	02	03	04 Hmwk 5	05 06
07	08	09	10	11 Hmwk 6	12 13
14 Last day to drop the course	15 Lab Work 2	16	17	18 Hmwk 7	19 20
21	22	23	24	25 Hmwk 8	26 27
28	29	30	31		

OCT DEC

## NOVEMBER 2013

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT/SUN
				01 Exam 2 Assigned	02 03
04 Exam 2 Due	05	06	07	08 Hmwk 9	09 10
11	Mike out of town for conferences				17
		Lab Work 3			
18	19	20	21	22 Hmwk 10	23 24
25	26	27	28	29	30
No class – Thanksgiving Break!					

NOV JAN

# DECEMBER 2013

MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT/SUN
					01
02	03	04 Lab Work 4	05	06 Exam 3 Assigned	07 08
09 Exam 3 Due	10	11	12	13	14 15
16	17 Final grades due	18	19	20	21 22
23	24	25	26	27	28 29
30	31				