Sociology 361: Statistics for Sociologists II  
Spring 2011  
TR 4:00-5:15PM  
Social Sciences 6240

Instructor  
Paul Hanselman  
phanselm@ssc.wisc.edu  
Office Hours:  
Tues., 9:00-11:00AM  
Social Sciences 8142

Teaching Assistant  
Rahul Mahajan  
rmahajan@ssc.wisc.edu  
Office Hours:  
Wed., 12:15-1:15PM, 3:20-4:20PM  
Social Sciences 2408

Lab Sections  
Lab Section 301: W 1:20-3:15PM SS 6121  
Lab Section 302: W 7:45-9:40AM SS 6125  
(Labs will also meet in the computer lab, SS 3218, as needed)

Overview  
This course provides a foundation for applied quantitative methods in empirical social research. Our ultimate goal is to be able to make statistical judgments about relationships among measurable social phenomena, and we will build toward this goal by developing the notion of statistical inference and multivariate regression. As we introduce statistical concepts, you will also learn to apply them in the context of exercises with real data and the Stata statistics package. Our orientation throughout is towards developing a “statistical intuition” for approaching social questions that will leave you with the tools to conduct basic but highly serviceable empirical research of your own, to critically evaluate statistical claims, and to pursue more advanced and specific techniques on your own.

Prerequisites  
Junior standing, Sociology 360 or an equivalent introductory course in statistics (meaning previous work with basic descriptive statistics and inferential statistics), and facility with basic algebra.

Required Text  
The required textbook is available at the University Bookstore and a copy will be on reserve at the Social Sciences Library:


Recommended Supplemental Texts  
Given the wide range of audiences and topics, there are a number of valuable approaches to beginning/intermediate statistics. A well-regarded basic text, which may merit review if it has been awhile, is:

For a slightly more formal approach to much of the material covered in this course, see:


Finally, for a more advanced and comprehensive treatment that covers but extends well beyond the topics for this course, I highly recommend the following:


**Course Materials**

All course materials, including lecture slides, data, assignments, recommended readings, and answers to specific course queries, will be posted on Learn@UW (https://learnuw.wisc.edu) as soon as they are available and updated as necessary.

**Software and Computing**

For consistency, all data analyses for this class are required to be completed in Stata (http://stata.com/), which is the default statistics application in many areas of sociology and enjoys substantial support from the Social Sciences Computing Collaborative (SSCC) on campus. Stata is available on computer in the SSCC computer lab in Social Sciences 4218 and can be accessed remotely via Winstat. SSCC staff members will provide an orientation to these resources and the program itself during the first week’s lab section.

Although Stata books are available, arguably the best resources for learning the program are online. I recommend the following:

- The SSCC’s Stata documentation (I highly recommend that you read the “Stata for Students” section for week 1, and then refer to applicable topics as the course progresses): http://ssc.wisc.edu/sscc/pubs/stat.htm.
- UCLA Stata resources: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/
- Statacorp FAQs: http://www.stata.com/support/faqs/

**Expectations**

Success in this class depends on sustained engagement with the material, in the textbook, lectures, lab sessions, and assignments. Students are expected to review textbook sections prior to lecture and homework assignments prior to lab.

Your grade for this course will be based on the following four formal requirements:

**Exams (60%)**

Three exams will cover material from lecture, lab, and the textbook. Books and notes will not be permitted but formula sheets will be provided. There will be no make-up exams without the prior consent of the instructor. Students who need to reschedule an exam should submit a written request at least two weeks before the exam in question.

**Data analysis paper (25%)**

The applied data skills developed throughout the course will culminate in an extended data exercise (no more than 10 pages in length) using data provided by the instructor. The data and
more specific instructions will be distributed midway in the semester. This paper will be due at the final exam, on May 12. Late papers will be docked one letter grade (10 points on a 100 point scale) for each day they are late.

Weekly homework assignments (10%)
Weekly homework assignments will consist of problems from the textbook as well as computer-based data analysis. In general, homework assignments will be posted on Thursday and must be turned in by the beginning of lecture on the following Thursday. Homework will be graded on a scale of 0-3. Extensions will not be granted, and assignments turned in late will automatically lose 1 point for each day late. However, the lowest homework grade will be dropped.

Participation (5%)
Attendance will not be taken, but the class as a whole is responsible for creating an environment of active and equitable engagement with the material. The quality of class participation will yield a single grade which will be a component of all students’ grades.

Accessibility
I wish to fully include all persons in this course. Please let me know as soon as possible if you need any special accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or assessments of this course to enable you to participate fully. I will try to maintain the confidentiality of the information you share with me. Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center, 905 University Avenue (263-2741), for information concerning campus disability-related policies and services.

Academic Honesty
The UW’s guidelines for academic misconduct, including definitions and consequences, are discussed at http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html. You are encouraged to study with each other, but all submitted work for this class should be indisputably your own.
Schedule of Topics

(all readings refer to sections of the Agresti/Finlay required text)

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<td>5/12</td>
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