

STA 6126 Fall 2013

Statistical Methods in Social Research I

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Required Materials Textbook Agresti and Finlay, *Statistical Methods for the Social Sciences* 4th Ed., Prentice Hall.

Calculator You need a scientific calculator, one which will compute at least the mean and standard deviation automatically.

Statistical Software We will use the free statistical computing language R; download it in the first week of the semester from <http://www.r-project.org>.

Course Web Page <http://www.stat.ufl.edu/~burr/Courses/6126>

Course Description This course gives an introduction to concepts of probability and statistics, with examples chosen mainly from social science. Topics include descriptive statistics, probability basics, the sampling distribution of the mean (Central Limit Theorem), estimation, hypothesis testing, and linear regression.

Main Course Objectives (short list)

- 1 Know the normal distribution and Central Limit Theorem, which form the basis for much of statistical inference.
- 2 Understand confidence intervals and hypothesis tests.
- 3 Be familiar with examples of statistical methods that occur in the daily news and in social science research.

Grading Your final course grade will depend on your course score based on the following four components with their respective weights:

Homework:		10%
Test 1:	Wednesday September 25 (6:15-7:45pm, room TBA)	30%
Test 2:	Wednesday October 23 (6:15-8:15pm, room TBA)	30%
Test 3:	Wednesday December 4 (6:15-8:15pm, room TBA)	30%

The assignment of letter grades will be determined as follows:

Grade	Score
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	70 – 76
D	60 – 69
E	< 60

Homework Assignments consist of reading and exercises from the book. There will be five homeworks to hand in, consisting of some of the assigned exercises. You are expected to get help with homework problems, but your final write-up must be your own. If a solution to the homework exercise is in the back of the book, explain the steps in your own words.

Tests There will be three in-class, unit tests. Problems on the tests will be similar to problems solved in lecture, and to homework problems.

Schedule of topics, homeworks, and tests

Date	Assignment	Reading
6 Sep	HW1	Chs. 1, 2, 3
18 Sep	HW2	Chs. 4, 5
25 Sep	TEST 1 (6:15-7:45pm, Room TBA)	
9 Oct	HW3	5, 6
23 Oct	TEST 2 (6:15-8:15pm, Room TBA)	
30 Oct	HW4	7, 8
20 Nov	HW5	8, 9
4 Dec	TEST 3 (6:15-8:15pm, Room TBA)	

Note: The dates in this schedule are firm. The exact topics I cover may change somewhat as we proceed through the semester.

Course Policies

Homework Homework must be turned in at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. Late homework will not be accepted.

Tests The tests are closed-book, closed-notes. You may bring one 8.5×11 sheet of notes to each test. Bring a picture ID, your calculator, pencils and erasers. Makeup exams must be approved before the time of the exam and will be given only in case of medical or family emergencies (which must be appropriately documented). All work must be entirely your own.

Disabilities If you need to request accommodation due to a disability, please register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation, which you then bring to me.