

Florida Memorial College  
Course Syllabus

Course No.: SSC 302 Title: Introduction to Statistics Cr. Hrs. 3  
Term & Term Dates: Fall 2004, September 10 - December 4, 2004.  
Course Location: FIUFMC Social Science Lab 225, Saturday 8AM – 11:10AM  
Instructor: Robert Fels, Psy.D., Adjunct Professor  
Contact phone number: (888) 925-2362, option #2 to leave a voice message.  
E-mail address: <mailto:drfels@humanpsychophysiology.com>  
Instructor availability: M-F, 11AM – 7PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of descriptive and inferential statistics, and to build a groundwork for better understanding social science data and statistics commonly used in social research. Emphasis will be placed on practical application of statistical theories and techniques to social science data, the use of statistical computer software, and the interpretation and production of statistical tables and charts. Measures of central tendency and dispersion, probability, tests of significance, and correlation are covered.

**GOALS:** This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to enhance understanding and skill with regard to graphical and numerical descriptive and inferential statistics. The intended result is an increased use of abstract thinking and an increased problem-solving repertoire. Students will demonstrate an increased ability to evaluate claims presented in peer reviewed research and everyday communications. Students will perform and interpret statistical procedures using SPSS. They will also determine which data sets are appropriate for specific statistical procedures.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Gravetter, F. J., & Wallnau, L.B. (2002). *Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences (4<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth.

Students are responsible for the content of all assigned readings prior to the assigned date.

**RECOMMENDED READING:** American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Chapter	Topic
09/11/04		Introduction to Course
09/18/04	1	Introduction To Statistics
09/25/04	2	Quiz Frequency Distributions

10/02/04	3	Central Tendency
10/09/04	4	Quiz Variability, Review for Midterm
10/16/04		Midterm Exam (Exam Permit Required)
10/23/04	5	z-Scores: Location of Scores and Standardized Distributions
10/30/04	6	Probability
11/06/04	7	Quiz Probability and Samples: The Distribution of Sample Means
11/14/04	8	Introduction to Hypothesis Testing, Papers Due
11/20/04		Presentations, Review for Final Exam
11/27/04		Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend: No Class
12/04/04		Final Exam (Exam Permit Required)

PAPER/PRESENTATION: Students are required to submit a review and critical reading of one peer reviewed research article that examines a research topic. This involves rewriting the Method Section. Address theoretical and empirical issues in your paper based on class discussion and readings. The paper should be congruent with the style and format described in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Clarity, spelling, grammar, and punctuation contribute to your grade. The article is to be current and published within the last five years.

ORGANIZATION OF PAPER: Title page (title, author, course, semester)  
Abstract (short summary of the paper)  
Body of Paper (introduction, subsections, discussion)  
References (References cited in paper are included. Exclude references not cited).

INFORMATION ON PAPER: Choose a topic that interests you. The textbook, recommended readings and references from shared articles are good places to begin. The *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine*, *Behavior Therapy and Experimental Psychiatry* and *The International Journal of Aviation Psychology* contain articles relevant to this assignment. These journals are suggestions and you may choose any quantitative peer reviewed article. The library is essential for accessing helpful journal articles.

Submit a copy of the article with your completed paper. It is due on 11/14/04. Present your paper to the class. No paper will be accepted beyond that date. Keep a back up copy of any materials that you present.

Any paper or assignment that has been plagiarized from a published or non-published source will not only receive a grade of zero, but also all College policies will apply. The FMC Honor Code will be enforced. Please refer to the College Catalog or the Student Handbook.

GRADING POLICY: Your grade will be determined in the following manner.

Quizzes	45 points each
Paper/Presentation	90 points
Midterm	90 points
Final	90 points
Class Participation	40 points

A = 360-400 points	C = 280-303 points
A- = 356-359 points	C- = 276-279 points
B+ = 348-355 points	D+ = 264-275 points
B = 320-347 points	D = 240-263 points
B- = 316-319 points	D- = 229-239 points
C+ = 304-315 points	F = $\leq 228$

Note: You will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz grade.

#### Course Policies

- ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and are responsible for all covered class material. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain material if absent.
- EXAMINATIONS: All students are expected to take exams on the day they are scheduled. Students must contact the instructor for a make up exam prior to the exam. Contents of the exam include required reading and lecture material. The format may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, essay, and computational problems.
- INSTRUCTION METHOD: Course activities include lectures, demonstrations, SPSS tutorials, instructional videos, student presentations, internet and library research projects, and group activity.
- QUIZZES: Each quiz is worth 45 points. Short quizzes will be given at the beginning of class on designated dates. They will cover the material assigned to date in the class. The lowest quiz grade may be dropped. If you are absent for a quiz, that grade will be dropped. There are no make-up quizzes.
- REQUIRED READING: Students are expected to read assigned chapters as indicated above. Copies of additional articles will be provided as a supplement to the required readings.
- STUDY QUESTIONS: Study questions will be provided and are to be handed in prior to the quiz.