HLP 6515 Evaluation Procedures (online)

Spring semester 2026

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Office hours
Wednesday 8-10 pm. Zoom https://ufl.zoom.us/j/97175070048

Summary

This course consists of two parts – theoretical and practical. From the theory perspective, this is an introductory course in descriptive and inferential statistics. The course approaches the abstract concepts in a systematic and logical progression, so that they are easily attainable. The topics include levels of measurement, frequency distributions, measures of central tendency and dispersion, probabilities and normal distribution, sampling distribution of the mean, and confidence intervals, among others. Students will learn the logic of hypothesis testing and have a general understanding of how the statistical procedures – t-test, one-way ANOVA, chi-square, correlations and regression – work. They will learn how to select an appropriate statistical test for a given research question.

From the practical angle, the course teaches basic data analysis skills through hands-on lab assignments involving real data, mostly from social sciences, sports, and tourism. The lab part of the course has a steep, but manageable, learning curve when students get to know SPSS software, its interface, and main commands. Throughout the course, students should allocate the appropriate amount of time for SPSS assignments.

Learning objectives

At the end of the course students are expected:
- to acquire basic working knowledge of SPSS and advanced Excel;
- to know how to read SPSS output and interpret test results;

- to be able to select appropriate statistical procedures for answering a particular research question;
- to know how to apply most common univariate and bivariate statistical tests;
- to be able to organize, present, and interpret data in SPSS and Excel.

The course objectives are reached through lectures, homework and lab assignments, data analysis projects, as well as quizzes and exams.

Reading
1. Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences by Frederick Gravetter and Larry Wallnau. https://www.amazon.com/Statistics-Behavioral-Sciences-Standalone-Book/dp/1305504917

2. Field, A. (2013). Discovering statistics using SPSS. Sage publications. (recommended). You can get any other recent introduction to SPSS book.

Software

You will need to use SPSS software for your homework and in-class assignments. If you are located on campus, you can use UF computer labs. The computer lab locations and schedules are available at https://labs.at.ufl.edu/computer-labs/

You may find it more convenient to install IBM SPSS **Campus Edition** software on your computer. IBM SPSS can be acquired in two alternative ways:

1. Cheap and fast; no Internet needed: You can lease the student's edition from the University of Florida at discounted rate ($35 per annum): https://software.ufl.edu/software-listings/spss-licensing-for-students.html.

Alternatively, buy it from IBM® SPSS® educational sales program – http://www.onthehub.com/spss/

Make sure you have the **campus edition**! A regular base SPSS does not have all functions we will use.

2. Free but needs fast Internet connection: You can use the remote access to SPSS through the UF apps: http://info.apps.ufl.edu/ . You may need to install Citrix Receiver prior to using this service.

Note: The instructor does not solve technical issues related to installation of SPSS software. For issues with technical difficulties, contact the UF Help Desk at http://helpdesk.ufl.edu; (352) 392-HELP (4357).

Course organization

Course material is divided into the modules. One week is allocated for each module, with the exception of Module 1 which takes longer. A typical module includes (1) a lecture (up to three video segments); (2) SPSS lab instructions (video); (3) a quiz; (4) homework problems from the textbook; and (5) an SPSS assignment. Quizzes and assignments provide valuable practice and serve as previews of what is expected for exams. They also help students keep up with the course material. Since in teaching this course I am

temporary replacing Dr. Stepchenkova who is away from campus during this semester, video segments will usually be taught by Dr. Stepchenkova.

This class has many assignments, therefore, allocate the appropriate amount of time to this course. You may find it beneficial to study material with a fellow student to get a better grasp of concepts. However, the final version of the assignment that you submit should be your own work. Do not directly copy the work of another student! Homework is preparation for quizzes and exams; therefore, it is counterproductive to let someone else do your thinking.

IMPORTANT: Closely follow the course "logistics" with respect to submission of your work. All assignments (quizzes, problems from the textbook, and SPSS labs) for a typical module are due after the last day of the module, on Tuesday at noon. Modules are one week long. Late submissions are penalized: Thursday before 5 pm -20%. Notice that **there are no late submissions for quizzes and exams**!

To facilitate learning in the online format, keys to textbook assignments are provided after assignments are submitted. Because of that arrangement, I will not accept your submission after Thursday 5 pm. Notice that the lowest HW score is dropped, therefore, your overall grade will not be affected by missing the final deadline for one assignment. Save this "allowance" for a real emergency!

EXAMS: There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. More details will be provided in the weeks before the exams. DO NOT MISS AN EXAM! Make-up exams will be given only under the most serious circumstances (e.g., illness, accident, or emergency). Your reasons should be properly documented and will be verified. The instructor will follow the UF policy in deciding whether your circumstances grant a make-up.

Grading
Source percent of grade:
- 2 exams: 40%
- 8 short quizzes: 10% (the lowest score is dropped)
- 6 textbook assignments: 15% (the lowest score is dropped)
- 10 SPSS lab assignments: 15% (the lowest score is dropped)
- 2 data analysis projects: 20%

TOTAL 100%

Grading scale: grades will not be rounded

	A = 93-100%	A- = 90-92.99%	
B+ = 87-89.99%	B = 83-86.99%	B- = 80-82.99%	
C+ = 77-79.99%	C = 73-76.99%	C- = 70-72.99%	
D+ = 67-69.99%	D = 63-66.99%	D- = 60-62.99%	E = 59.99% or lower

If you noticed a scoring error, notify the instructor within one week that a scoring error is made. No issues regarding scoring will be reviewed after midnight of April 22, 2015.

CAMPUS RESOURCES and UF ACADEMIC POLICIES
https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/

Course schedule (subject to change)

Week	Lecture	Objectives	Lab	Reading
1	1. Intro to statistics. Data: levels of measurement	INTRODUCTION, COURSE OUTLINE Research process & data analysis Review: Fractions, proportions, percentages, and rates Lab: working with SPSS	Lab 1	Chapter 1: 1.1, 1.2;
2	2. Descriptive statistics; frequency distribution. Data visualization.	Sources of statistical error Levels of measurement Frequency distributions Charts and Graphs	Lab 2	Chapter 1: 1.2, 1.4; Chapter 2
3	3. Measuring data central tendency and spread	Mean, median, and mode Frequency distribution curves for interval/ratio variables The range and the standard deviation Z-scores, normal curve	Lab 3	Chapter 3, 4
4	4. Probability Math. Normal distribution.	Normal distribution Normal curve table and computing areas under the normal curve Computing percentile score using the normal curve	Lab 4	Chapter 5, 6
5	5. Sampling distributions. Central limit theorem.	Point estimates Sampling distributions and standard errors Law of large numbers Central Limit Theorem	Lab 5	Chapter 7: 7.1, 7.2
6	6. Computing confidence intervals	Computing a confidence interval of a population mean Computing a confidence interval of a population proportion Choosing a sample size	Lab 6	Chapter 7: 7.3 - 7.5

7	Exam 1			
8	7. Hypothesis testing	Hypothesis testing and the six steps of statistical inference The large single-sample means test Understanding p-values and their relationship to the level of significance The small single-sample means test The "Students' t" sampling distribution	Lab 7	Chapter 8
9	8. t-test	Bivariate analysis: three approaches to measuring statistical relationships Two-group difference of means test for independent samples (t-test) T-test for large and small samples	Lab 8	Chapter 9, 10, 11
	School break			
10	9. ANOVA	The logic of Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and the general linear model Range tests	Lab 9	Chapter 12
11	10. Chi-Square	Chi-square test for a relationship between two nominal variables Using Chi-square as a difference of proportions test	Lab 10	Chapter 17
12	11. Correlation and regression 1	Basic ideas behind bivariate correlation and regression techniques Observing scatterplots for linear relationships Calculating bivariate correlation and regression statistics	Lab 11	Chapter 15
13	12. Review	Review of the topics for the final exam. Preparation for the exam. Data analysis on your own.	Lab 12	
14	Exam 2			