

Sul Ross State University – Behavioral and Social Sciences Department  
 PSY 2307 Course Syllabus  
 Fall 2020

Course Title:	Introduction to Statistics for Behavioral Sciences
Required Text:	Blatchley, B. (2019). <i>Statistics in context</i> . New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
Recommended Software:	SPSS 27.0 for Windows - Student Version – You can purchase a 6 month license of the software at <a href="https://estore.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?o=5d184db5-abbo-ea11-812c-000d3af41938&amp;pmv=0a915582-02b0-ea11-812c-000d3af41938">https://estore.onthehub.com/WebStore/OfferingDetails.aspx?o=5d184db5-abbo-ea11-812c-000d3af41938&amp;pmv=0a915582-02b0-ea11-812c-000d3af41938</a> (Note that there is also a version for Mac)
Contact Information:	A. M. Trotman, PhD
Office (LH 306) Hours:	(Make an appointment)
Prerequisites:	Algebra or Introductory Statistics (MATH 1342)

**Course Description:**

The student will acquire an understanding of the statistics as a professional tool in social and behavioral sciences with major emphasis on data description, organization, analysis and minor emphasis on prediction.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

*Major:*

- 1) Given the required inclusion of statistical analyses in journal articles, students can read and comprehend basic quantitative results.  
**Method of Assessment:** Discussion, participation and exams
- 2) Given large sets of numeric data, the student can identify and describe the use of descriptive statistics, distinguishing among the four measurement scales, calculating frequencies and creating accompanying charts.  
**Method of Assessment:** Discussion, quizzes, participation and exams
- 3) Given the nature of the hypotheses that examine samples to draw conclusions or make predictions of populations, the student can execute inferential statistics, identify independent and dependent variables and perform correlations and hypothesis testing.  
**Method of Assessment:** Discussion, quizzes, participation and exams
- 4) Given the consistency and inconsistency of various measures, and the likelihood of unique findings, students can calculate measures of central tendency, dispersion and probability.  
**Method of Assessment:** Quizzes, participation and exams
- 5) Given the likelihood of errors that can occur in a sampling distribution that are typical or atypical, students can conduct central limit theorem, z-scores and sampling distribution of means analyses.  
**Method of Assessment:** Quizzes, participation and exams

## Course Requirements:

- 1) **The text MUST be obtained.** If you want to *seriously* pass this class, you must purchase the textbook.
- 2) Respect for students and lecturer must be maintained at all times when we meet. Respect is a basic human characteristic that entitles each person to their own right and identity. It also helps to nurture a healthy learning environment. If you recognize that respecting others may be a problem, please be courteous and alert me or more suitable personnel (e.g. Sul Ross State University psychologists, family members, lecturers, close friends) and or refer to the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

## SRSU Disability Services:

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973.

It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email [rebecca.wren@sulross.edu](mailto:rebecca.wren@sulross.edu). Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832..

## Honoring Academic Integrity

Any instance of academic misconduct such as (1) turning in an identical written assignment for another course without approval, (2) copying from any source without proper citation, (3) crossing the boundary of what is allowed in a group project, (4) lying in connection with your academic work, (5) cheating, (6) plagiarism, (7) misrepresenting facts and/or collusion are contrary to the purpose of any educational institution and will be dealt with **most severely** to the extent of the university's disciplinary policy and/or through legal action if indicated. An instructor who determines that a student has been dishonest academically can at a minimum issue no credit for the assignment/exam, and/or pursue more severe penalties, including but not limited to failing the course. Before the penalty is imposed, the student has the right to appeal to the division chairperson or Assistant Provost for the Academic Affairs. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the [SRSU Student Handbook](#) and procedures for dealing with these acts are outlined in the [Scholastic Dishonesty Policy](#).

## Attendance and Participation

This is a course that requires online and in class experience and discussion. **Class attendance IS REQUIRED and participation is important.**

*Classes will be held in-person in Room LH 200 on Tuesdays beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on November 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be no in-class instruction but I will be available to work through questions, and answer any of your concerns.*

Classes on Thursdays will be held ONLINE in Blackboard Collaborate. These sessions will be recorded.

Class participation and attendance will be worth **20%** of the final grade. Attendance accounts for a significant amount of your final grade because *absences* affect your ability to complete the considerable number of assignments for this class and **more importantly**, pass this class.

**Participation** - You are expected to be actively involved online and/or in person. *Active involvement includes prompt and regular attendance, active listening, writing, participating via an online poll or quiz, and engaging in online discussions.* Besides attendance, all other forms of participation judged subjectively by me that showcases active involvement will increase your participation grade.

**Attendance** - Class attendance is governed by the SRSU policy stated in the schedule of classes. If you are unable to attend a class session, please discuss the reason with me and arrange with another student to obtain any notes, handouts or assignments you may have missed. Excused absences entail established religious observance, or providing emergency, university-authorized, legal or medical documentation. Excessive unexcused absences (**more than 6 missed class sessions**) will result in a failing grade for the course. If you recognize that you will need extra assistance in reviewing statistics (more than I can provide), it is recommended that you make an appointment with the tutoring center in the Library.

**Cell phone and computer use:** During the entire class period, you should be fully engaged in the class's activity. Laptop computers or phones are welcomed for the academic purposes of note taking or following along with the instructor's lesson. Off-topic activity (e.g., reading the newspaper, cell phone use, checking email, Facebook) not directly related to the class is considered extremely disrespectful, and will be noted and can result in being marked "absent" for the day.

**Distance Education Statement** - Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as Smarthinking, library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

### **The Online Support Desk**

The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or you are dealing with a technical error in the course. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 days a week for your convenience. You can reach the support desk:

- By calling 888.837.6055
- Via email [blackboardsupport@sulross.edu](mailto:blackboardsupport@sulross.edu)
- Using resources from the Technology Support tab within blackboard

- Clicking the Support Desk graphic on the course homepage

*Regular communications with the professor* - It is essential that you keep me current on your progress and any difficulties you may be having so that I can respond in real time to support your success. GENERAL QUESTIONS are to be posted to a discussion board for all. For PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES email me at [alicia.trotman@sulross.edu](mailto:alicia.trotman@sulross.edu) or call me at 432-837-8147. I strive to respond as soon as possible. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours during the work week, please resend your email. The most efficient way of contacting me is by email, meeting with me during our weekly Zoom meetings or scheduling a meeting with me which provides you with contact hours for the rest of the semester.

*Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions* - Watch the VIDEO on NETTIQUETTE - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk\\_Zv7nB8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ouRE972uQo> . You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts in this web-based course in the same manner as in a face-to-face course. Please treat each other with dignity and respect and avoid disruptive behaviors. You are responsible for knowing what behaviors are acceptable versus unacceptable as referred to in the Student Conduct and Discipline section of the [SRSU Student Handbook](#).

## Evaluation:

**Exams:** Two (2) exams will be given during the course of this term. These exams will be mostly completed in class and sometimes a part done at home. These exams may require computer use and the SPSS statistical software program. All exams will be due at the start of the next class session. **No late exams will be accepted** unless for excused absences (see attendance). All exams will be worth the total of 40% of the final grade. If your absence is excused the day the exam is given, it will be *your responsibility* to reschedule a date **at most one day** after the missed exam with me.

**Quizzes:** These quizzes are marked as (Q) below, and in the course schedule and there will be twelve (12) quizzes given during the course of this term on Blackboard. The dates of the quizzes are planned for the dates listed below in the class schedule. All quizzes will be worth 48% of the final grade. Please note that there will be no make-up quizzes (see attendance).

**Discussion Posts:** These discussions are marked as (D) below, and in the course schedule and there will be six (6) discussions posted during the course of this term on Blackboard. You must post and respond to these discussions in a timely manner, as shown in the course schedule. If not, you will receive a zero after the posted due date. A rubric is provided to assess how discussions are scored.

**Late Quizzes/Exams:** You are expected to meet quiz/exam deadlines. Quizzes submitted one day after their due dates will be deducted by 50% of the overall grade, and will be scored zero after more than one day for unexcused absences. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made.

## Grading

Students are expected to complete assignments prior to class sessions and to engage in thoughtful discussions in light of these assignments. In addition to completing the SPSS assignments on time, students will be required to work frequently on their research paper for the final grade and presentation.

Attendance & Participation:	200 points	20%
Discussions (6[20])	120 points	12%
Exams (2[100])	200 points	20%
Quizzes (12[40])	480 points	48%
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>1000 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Course Outline

(This schedule and the topics listed above are subject to modification by the instructor.)

### Unit 1 – Statistical Definitions and Frequencies

Day	Content	Materials
Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Introductions... Using Blackboard for the course What are Statistics? Populations? Samples? (1) Aug. 27 <sup>th</sup> – Last day for late registration and schedule changes	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	<b>PURCHASE TEXTBOOK</b>	
*Sept. 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	What are Statistics? Populations? Samples? (1)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 1 – Statistics: Who needs them? (Q1 & Q2) Quizzes 1 and 2 on Chapter 1;	
Sept. 8 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Levels of Measurement, Types of Data and Variables (2) (Sept 9 <sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 2 (Q3 & Q4) Quizzes 3 & 4 on Chapter 2; (D1) Discussion 1	
Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup>	Frequency Distributions and Constructing Graphs (3)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 3 (Q5) Quiz 5 on Chapter 3	
Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Frequency Distributions and Constructing Graphs (3) SPSS Introduction	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	(Q6) Quiz 6 on Chapter 3; (D2) Discussion 2	(*in LH 200)

### UNIT II: Measures of Dispersion

Day	Content	Materials
*September 29 <sup>th</sup> & October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Measures of Central Tendency (4)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 4	

October 6 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>	Review – October 6 <sup>th</sup> <b>Midterm Exam: Thursday October 8<sup>th</sup></b>	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>		
October 13 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	The “Law of Life” (5)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 5 (Q7) Quiz 7 on Chapter 5; (D3) Discussion 3	
October 20 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Normal Curve (6)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Read Chapter 6 (Q8) Quiz 8 on Chapter 6	(*in LH 200)

## UNIT III: Inferential Statistics

Day	Content	Materials
*Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	The Normal Curve (6)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	(Q9) Quiz 9 on Chapter 6; (D4) Discussion 4	
Nov. 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup>	Probability Theory (7)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	(Q10) Quiz 10 on Chapter 7; (D5) Discussion 5	
Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8: The Central Limit Theory and Hypothesis Testing (Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> : Last day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences; Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup> : Last day to drop a course with a ‘W’ by 4pm)	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	(Q11) Quiz 11 on Chapter 8; (D6) Discussion 6	
Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter 8: The Central Limit Theory and Hypothesis Testing SPSS Review	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	(Q12) Quiz 12 on Chapter 8	(*in LH 200)
Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Review of Quizzes 11 and 12; SPSS Review	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Practice for Final Exam	
Dec. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Make-Up Day	Blackboard; Statistics Textbook
<b>Homework</b>	Study for Final Exam	
<b>Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	
<b>Congratulations on finishing the course!</b>		