

Sul Ross State University

Behavioral and Social Sciences Department (BASS)

PSY 3305 Course Syllabus ~ Fall 2026

Course Title:	Introduction to Statistics for Behavioral Sciences
Required Text:	Salkind, N., & Frey, B. B. (2025). <i>Statistics for people who (think they) hate statistics</i> . (8 th ed.). Sage.
Recommended Text:	Watt, W., & Collins, E. (2023). <i>Statistics for psychology: A beginner's guide</i> . (2 nd ed.). Sage.
Contact Information:	A. M. Trotman, PhD – alicia.trotman@sulross.edu
Office (LH 306) Hours:	Mondays (2:30 to 4:30pm), Tuesdays (2:00 to 4:00pm), & Wednesdays (11:00am to 12:00pm; 3:00 to 5:30pm) Appointment: https://calendly.com/amtsulross/office-hours-appointment
Prerequisites:	Algebra or Introductory Statistics (MATH 1342)

Course Description:

The student will acquire an understanding of 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:

- 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 correlations, and perform basic 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 access to **our SAGE textbook authored by Salkind & Frey (2025)**.
- 2) Respect for students and lecturer must be always maintained when we meet. Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose, and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. We will do our best to embrace the difficulty of fruitfully discussing controversial and sensitive issues. Respect is a basic human characteristic that entitles each person to their own rights 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 Accessibility and Counseling Services:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the [Accommodation Request Form](#) located on our [website](#). Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 79832.

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](#). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer [in-person counseling](#) in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and Sul Ross International students.

Library Services Statement

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, [library.sulross.edu/](#). Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting [library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/](#) or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu.

Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

Student Responsibilities:

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the **Student Handbook** and the [Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog](#) and for abiding by the [University rules and regulations](#). Additionally, students are

responsible for checking their **Sul Ross email** as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

Honoring Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. **A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Students should submit work that is their own** and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Other instances of academic misconduct are lying in connection with your academic work, cheating, misrepresenting facts and/or collusion and **using open AI** sources unless *permission is expressly given* for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity will result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall. All these 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. Further information about *Academic Honesty* can be read in the **SRSU Student Handbook**.

The University *does not recommend or endorse* any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work will be treated as plagiarism. If you have questions, please contact me.

Observing Class Guidelines

This is a course that requires online and in class experience and discussion. **Class attendance IS REQUIRED and participation is important IN CLASS and ONLINE.** This class is held synchronously at the times listed on Tuesdays and Thursdays via Teams.

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, which means that your camera must be turned on for at least 25% of class time for each class session via Microsoft Teams. **Active involvement includes prompt and regular attendance, active listening, practicing textbook questions, participating via an online poll or quiz, and engaging in online in-class discussions.** Besides attendance, all other forms of participation judged subjectively by me that showcases active involvement will increase your participation grade. Please note that the syllabus quiz counts towards your participation grade.

Attendance - Class attendance is governed by the SRSU Undergraduate Academic Regulations policy stated in the schedule of classes. ALL of the course curriculum is FULLY ONLINE with *Sage*, so we will meet on **Tuesdays and Thursdays online in Microsoft Teams** from 11:00am to 12:15pm. 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. I reserve the right to drop a student from the class by November 10th with a failing grade if the number of unexcused absences exceed a three-week span. Excused absences due to established religious observance, or emergency, university-authorized, legal or medical issues and events will not count toward the absence limit but do require written documentation. **Excessive unexcused absences (more than 4 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 or form a study group that meets regularly to review the material. In addition, many students spend significant time reviewing YouTube and Khan Academy videos.

Distance Education Statement - Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as 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 a secure login. 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. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook **SRSU Student Handbook.**

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. The most efficient way of contacting me is using the Messages tool on Black Board and/or [booking an appointment](#) which provides you with contact hours for the rest of this semester. GENERAL QUESTIONS are to be posted using the Blackboard Messages tool. For PERSONAL or PRIVATE ISSUES, you can email me at Alicia.trotman@sulross.edu, leave a voice mail message (432-837-8147), book an appointment with me (<https://calendly.com/amtsulross/office-hours-appointment>) or text me on Microsoft Teams. 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 or text me.

Course Behaviors - Respect and Disruptions - Watch the VIDEO on NETIQUETTE - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWMk_Zv7nB8 and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80uRE972uQ0> . You are encouraged and expected to openly engage in discussions, ask questions, share ideas, and express your thoughts in this synchronous online 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.**

Marketable Skills

1. Speaking Effectively: Students will demonstrate competency in public speaking and communicating scientific information to diverse audiences.
2. Describing Feelings: Students will demonstrate empathic or active listening and conversational skills, and/or write clearly about their affective stance, respectfully attuned to the needs of their audiences.
3. Identifying Resources: Students will demonstrate the aptitude to locate, organize and evaluate the credibility of information from multiple sources.
4. Analyzing: Students will demonstrate ability to examine the underlying issues of a scientific problem, attending to the pertinent details and creating a plan of action, recognizing ambiguity and complexity as essential components.

Tutoring Center

[The Lobo Den Tutoring Center](#) offers FREE tutoring support to help you excel in your courses. Whether you need assistance in Writing, Math, Science, or other subjects, we're here to help!

Important Information:

- Drop-in and Scheduled Appointments: Flexible options to fit your needs.
- Hours of Operation: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Workshops: Attend our regularly hosted academic workshops on STEM topics and professional development, often in collaboration with specialized faculty.
- Location: BWML Room 128.
- Contact Us: For more information or to book an appointment, email tutoring@sulross.edu or call (432) 837-8726.

Looking for additional support?

- Tutor.com offers FREE 24/7 online tutoring in over 200 subjects, including specialized support for ESL and ELL learners with native Spanish-speaking tutors.
- Access Tutor.com via Blackboard: Log in to your Blackboard account to get started anytime, anywhere.

Take advantage of these valuable resources to boost your confidence and performance in your classes. We look forward to helping you succeed!

Evaluation:

Syllabus Quiz – The syllabus quiz is to make sure you did not gloss over this... but actually have read it! Therefore, I expect you to know what is expected of you in this class, and you know what is expected of me as your instructor.

Exams: Two (2) online exams will be given during the course of this term. *Please note these exams will be monitored using Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor.* You will need to use a personal computer in a private space where the level of noise and distractions are minimal. It is your responsibility to have this application installed on your computer and to test it before you and your partner begin the exam. These exams will be completed with your assigned partner. 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 20% of the total 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. There will be ten (10) 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 60% of the final grade. Please note that there will be no make-up quizzes (see attendance).

Assignment: This assignment is to check if you can read a journal article in psychology and basic statistics conducted to report findings. This assignment constituted 5% of your participation grade.

Textbook Exercises: These exercises connected to our text assigned a grade will include Knowledge Checks, Critical Thinking Checks, Data Activities. Reading Activities, Video Activities, Self Assessments, Practice Problems and Polls are only assigned for completion.

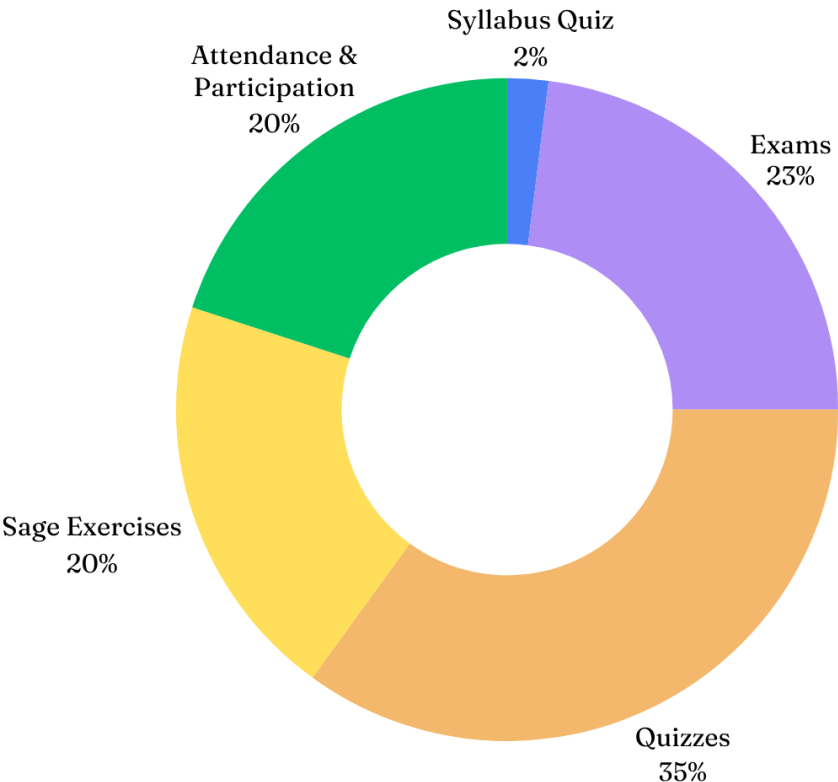
Late Quizzes/Exams

You are expected to meet quiz/exam and assignment deadlines. Quizzes submitted after their due dates will be scored **zero**. Assignments and textbook exercises will be reduced by 10% of the overall assignment for the first day of lateness and 40% for lateness beyond that for unexcused absences. For excused absences (university-authorized, legal or medical issues), speak with me **before the absence** so arrangements can be made. Please note that all excused absences require a form of documentation to verify the absence.

Grading

Students are expected to complete assignments prior to class sessions and to engage in thoughtful discussions in light of these assignments.

Syllabus Quiz (20)	20 points	2%
Attendance & Participation:	200 points	20%
Exams (2[115])	230 points	23%
Quizzes (10[35])	350 points	35%
Sage Exercises	200 points	20%
TOTAL:	1000 points	100%



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 th & 27 th	Introductions... Using Blackboard for the course Why do we need Statistics? (Thursday Aug. 27 th – Last day for late registration and schedule changes)	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	ACCESS TEXTBOOK (A1) Assignment on Module 1 and Syllabus Quiz	
Sept. 1 st & Sept. 3 rd MODULE A	Introduction to Statistics	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 1 – Statistics or Sadistics: It's Up to You!	
Sept. 8 th & 10 th MODULE 1	Review Chapter 1 (Monday September 7 th – Labor Day) (Wednesday September 9 th – Last day to drop classes without creating an academic record & Deadline to apply for Fall 2026 graduation- NO LATE FEE)	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 2 – What do your data look like?: Summarizing and Picturing Distributions (Q1) Quiz 1 on Chapter 1	
Sept. 15 th & 17 th MODULE 2	Review Chapter 2	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 3 – Computing Correlation Coefficients: Ice Cream and Crime (Q2) Quiz 2 on Chapter 2	
Sept. 22 nd & 24 th MODULE 3	Review Chapter 3	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 4 – Reliability and Validity: Tell the Truth, Precisely the Truth (Q3) Quiz 3 on Chapter 3	

UNIT II: Measures of Dispersion

Day	Content	Materials
September 29 th & October 1 st MODULE 4A	Review Chapter 4	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 4 – Forms of Variability	
October 6 th & 8 th MODULE 4B	Review Chapters 2 and 4 (Q4 & Q5) Quiz 4 on Chapter 4 & Quiz 5 on Chapters 2 and 4	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Review Quizzes Chapters 1 through 5	
October 13 th & 15 th MODULE 4C	Review Chapters 1 through 4	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Review Quizzes Chapters 1 through 5	

October 20th & 22nd MIDTERM	Review – October 21 st Midterm Exam: Thursday October 23rd	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Read Chapter 5 – The Normal Curve: It's Shaped like a Bell and it's Everywhere!	

UNIT III: Inferential Statistics

Day	Content	Materials
Oct. 27th & 29th MODULE 5	Review Chapter 5 (Friday October 30th: LAST Day to apply for Fall 2026 graduation with LATE FEE)	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	(Q6) Quiz 6 on Chapter 5	
Nov. 3rd & 5th MODULE 6A	Chapter 6 – Hypotheticals and You: Making Guesses (Monday November 2 nd - Registration for Spring 2027 begins & Spring 2027 graduation application opens) (Friday November 6 th by 4pm: LAST Day to withdraw from the 16-week course with grade of 'W')	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	(Q7) Quiz 7 on Chapters 5 & 6	
Nov. 10th & 12th MODULE 6B	Chapter 7 – Significance: Not Everything that can be Counted Counts! (Tuesday November 10th: LAST day for instructor initiated drop for excessive absences)	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	(Q8) Quiz 8 on Chapters 6 and 7 Review Chapter 7	
Nov. 17th & 19th MODULE 7A	Chapter 8 – Single Samples: One Group All Alone	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	(Q9) Quiz 9 on Chapters 5, 6, & 7 (Q10) Quiz 10 on Chapters 7 & 8	
Nov. 24th MODULE 7B	Review Chapter 8 Thanksgiving Break: Wednesday November 26th to Friday November 28th	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Practice for Final Exam	
Dec. 1st MODULE 8	Make-Up Day Review of Quizzes 6 through 10	Blackboard & Sage Textbook
Homework	Study for Final Exam	
Monday Dec. 7th (10:15am to 12:15pm)	Final Exam	
Congratulations on finishing the course!		