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PSY 301 UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2023
T/TH 4:30pm – 5:45pm

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Mei Jiang, Ph.D.

Office Location: Henderson 205A

Office Hours: [Zoom office hours] T/TH: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

In-person/Zoom meetings by appointment

Changes to office hours announced on D2L

Email Address: mei.jiang@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

Note. Emails without proper salutations or not sent from LEOMAIL will NOT be responded to.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

- Moore, D. S., & Notz, W. I. (2020). *Statistics: Concepts and controversies* (10th ed.). MacMillan Learning.

ISBN:9781319109028

- Additional handouts will be distributed on D2L.

Calculator:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

- A calculator is required. Any calculator that can process square root will do. I recommend a TI – 30Xa or Casio FX-260 SOLAR. Any other models will need my approval.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This introductory applied statistics course is to provide the student entry-level statistics knowledge for them to understand descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Emphasis will be placed on learning statistics through application and experience. Topics include visual displays of data, measures of central tendency and variability, standardized scores, normal distributions, probability, sampling distributions, hypothesis testing, and a brief introduction of the statistical tests.

This course will help you gain conceptual understanding of psychological statistics to provide you with a strong foundation for PSY 302, the next statistics course in your degree plan. The more you understand in this class, the better advantage you will have going forward into PSY 302.

I strongly encourage you to keep your textbook and any materials you accumulate. They will be a beneficial reference going forward.

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1) Demonstrate understanding of statistics as being a tool of the scientific process in quantitative research
- 2) Understand the statistical terminology covered in this course including variables, standardized scores, normal distribution, and hypothesis testing;
- 3) Generate descriptive statistics of data, describe how data can be interpreted and represented visually, and recognize the strengths and weaknesses of these representations
- 4) Understand the reasoning underlying the inferential statistical process

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Using the learning management system (D2L)
- Using word processing software (e.g., Microsoft Word)
- Using statistical software package and/or spreadsheet software (e.g., EXCEL)
- Using a calculator to complete simple statistical computations.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

Students are expected to invest six to nine hours per week into preparing for this course. To successfully complete the course, students should read the textbook and materials on D2L before class, attend each class, complete quizzes on time, and fully engage in any in-class activities that we may have. Reviewing the course material thoroughly is essential for preparing for the exams and assignments.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Ask questions as early as you can! – The most important! Please feel free to contact me any time you have questions. I make a rule for myself, and I would like for you to follow it. *If I spend an hour on something, and really give it my all, but I still can't get it, it's time to ask for help.* Don't be afraid to ask for help! Don't just sit there getting frustrated!

Take notes: Take GOOD notes while you read. It is a good study habit to go over your notes at the end of each week, filling in the blanks from the supplemental video(s) and assignment. It is also a good idea to make friends in the course and get the phone numbers of a couple of people who you can clarify notes with.

Utilize D2L: All submission of graded material are to be completed in D2L. Email submission will not be accepted. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the system and contact me or IT with questions in advance.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale: 600 total points

A = 89.5% - 100%
B = 79.5% - 89.4%
C = 69.5% - 79.4%
D = 59.5% - 69.4%
F = Less than 59.5%

Note: Grades will not be rounded ☺

ASSESSMENTS

Course grades will be determined by the following scale.

Participation/Exit Tickets		60 points
Quizzes	(4 x 60pts)	240 points
Exams	(3 x 100pts)	300 points
Total points possible		600 points

- I. **Participation** (60 points) – participation is expected in this course. Students will be required to submit Exit Tickets after each class on D2L when notified. Students will either answer an exit ticket question posed in class or ask a question by the midnight of the class day. The total 60 points will be distributed evenly between the total number of Exit Tickets we have in the semester.
- II. **Quizzes** (4 quizzes @ 60 pts each; total 240 points) -- Quizzes are to help students PRACTICE and familiarize with key statistical concepts. See the course calendar for the quiz deadlines.

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- III. **Exams** (3 exams @ 100 pts each; total 300 points) -- There will be three exams that are all cumulative. See the course calendar for the exam dates.

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made **48 hours** in advance of the testing date. Please contact me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. **Make-up exams will only be given in the case of verifiable medical or legal emergencies. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries).** The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with me, the instructor. If no valid excuse is presented your exam grade is a zero.

You are responsible for all lecture/supplemental videos and reading materials. The exams are all online, not open notes or textbooks, and should be taken individually.

Extra Credits:

1. There will be pop quizzes throughout the semester. All pop quizzes will be posted on discussion or quiz depending on the format. Deadlines of the quizzes will be announced in class and/or on D2L. The points you earn on these quizzes are counted as extra credits. These extra credits will be added to your final total points before the letter grade is calculated.
2. Research participation through the online SONA Experiment Management System (EMS) is **REQUIRED** and extra credits will be awarded according to your participation (see below for details)

Research Participation: A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at Texas A&M - Commerce, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general.

All students in this class are required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 credits, and 3 or more of them have to be earned from participating in face-to-face experiments. However, if you complete your first 4 face-to-face credits without any "no-shows", you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. This means you will only need to complete 4 credits in total.

When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive $\frac{1}{2}$ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth $\frac{1}{2}$ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research

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participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.'

More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is provided on D2L.

Students who are taking this course at CHEC will need to complete 6 credits of online research (or 4 credits if there are zero no shows).

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are the technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be

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found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I am here to support you. My Zoom office hours are listed on the top of the syllabus. If you would like to set up a Zoom meeting, please email me to schedule a time. Office hours are subject to change, and I will inform students via D2L if there are any changes. My normal email response time is 24 hours but may take up to 48 hours. If you do not hear back from me within 2 business days, please email me again in case I did not receive your message.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

EMAIL POLICY

If you would like to schedule an appointment, the best way is to email. We can then set up a time to chat when it is convenient for both of us.

EMAIL GUIDELINES

In an attempt to provide a framework for professional communication, emails must contain the following:

- Subject Line: Course (e.g. PSY 301-01S); additional information if desired (e.g. Hypothesis testing)
- Address the Reader: Open with “Dr. Jiang...”
- Use good grammar and avoid acronyms (i.e., do not write like you text)
- Ask good questions; a good question is specific and shows me the effort you’ve made.
 - If asking for assistance with an issue, please list how you have attempted to remediate the issue prior to contacting me (these should probably include looking at the syllabus/ course rubrics/ D2L, contacting a colleague, and checking your textbook, etc.)
- Close with your name and CWID.
- Please send emails from your University LEOMAIL account.
- The instructor will NOT discuss grades over email. If you would like to discuss your grade, please make an appointment during office hours.

If you are reading this, email me a photo of your pet (or favorite animal) OR ask a good question based on the above email guidelines for 2 extra credit points (available up till the end of the first week (Sunday midnight ☺).

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

This class provides a **child-friendly environment**. Students are welcome to bring their child/family under the age of 18 to class when other arrangements are not available. No prior approval is required.

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Exams will be posted on D2L and will be taken in-class unless otherwise specified. All assignments and exams must be submitted on time. The course calendar includes all of the dates and times these are due.

Plagiarism: Texas A&M University-Commerce views plagiarism as a serious offense. Plagiarism occurs when individuals take ideas and/or words from another source and claim these ideas as their own without giving credit to the original author(s). This can include copying words from an Internet website, reading an article and taking the authors ideas without giving them credit, or writing work that is remarkably similar to other written work (e.g., Changing words to synonyms is still plagiarism). If any written work contains ideas that are not your own, you need to give credit to the author(s) by including citations. Instructors are obligated to report instances of plagiarism to university officials. Please refer to the American Psychology Association (APA) manual for instructions on citing materials. When in doubt, ask me. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse for plagiarism. Acts of plagiarism on any written assignment, including discussion postings, will result in severe consequences, including the possibility of receiving a zero in the course. Acts of plagiarism will be reported to the department head.

Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be *original works* created by the scholar uniquely for the class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Duplication may result in a zero on an assignment.

Late Work: Please submit all assignments on time. No late work is accepted.

Please note that **computer issues will not be considered as an excuse for failing to submit any assignment on time**. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that assignments are turned in on time. Therefore, do not wait until the very end to complete an assignment. This will help ensure that you turn in the assignment on time if you are having a technology issue (i.e., you can find another computer, call the Help Desk for support, etc.).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information

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regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Topic	Due Date
1	8/28-9/1	Syllabus & Chapter 1: Data	
2	9/4-9/8	Chapters 1 & 3: Data and Sample	
3	9/11-9/15	Chapter 8: Variable, Bias, Reliability, and Validity	Quiz #1 (Chapters 1, 3, 8) Due 09/16 @11:59 pm
4	9/18-9/22	Chapter 10: Your Favorite Graphs	
5	9/25-9/29	Chapter 11: Using Graphs in Describing Data	
6	10/2-10/6	Chapter 12: Using Numbers in Describing Data	Quiz #2 (chapters 10, 11, 12) Due 10/7 @11:59 pm
7	10/9-10/3	Review & EXAM 1	
8	10/16-10/20	Chapter 13: Everything about Normal Distribution	
9	10/23-10/27	Chapter 13: Everything about Normal Distribution	
10	10/30-11/3	Chapter 17&18: What is Your "Chance"?	Quiz #3 (chapters 13, 17, 18) Due 11/04 @11:59 pm
11	11/6-11/10	Review & EXAM 2	
12	11/13-11/17	Chapter 21: Understanding Confidence Interval	
13	11/20-11/21	Chapter 21: Understanding Confidence Interval Thanksgiving Break	
14	11/27-12/1	Chapter 22: What is Statistical Significance?	
15	12/4-12/8	Chapter 22: What is Statistical Significance?	Quiz #4 (chapters 21, 22) Due 12/9 @11:59 pm
16	12/11-12/15	Review and FINAL EXAM	

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