



## PSY 301 UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024  
Online

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Mei Jiang, Ph.D.

**Office Location:** Henderson 205A

**Office Hours:** M/W 10-11am (Zoom), T/TH 1:45-3:45 (in person)  
Changes to office hours announced on D2L

**Email Address:** [mei.jiang@tamuc.edu](mailto: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* (10<sup>th</sup> ed.). MacMillan Learning.

ISBN:9781319109028

- Additional handouts will be distributed on D2L.

Calculator:

- 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.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

## **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.

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**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.

Discussion	(11x10pts)	110 points
Quizzes	(4 x 60pts)	240 points
Exams	(4 x 100pts)	400 points
Total points possible		750 points

- I. **Discussions** (11 discussions @ 10 pts each; total 110 points) – Participation on D2L discussions is expected in this course. Students will be required to post the initial post on D2L **each week** by **Wednesday at 11:59 PM**, and reply to at least one peer by **Sunday at 11:59 PM**. Varied formats will be used for discussion. Check D2L for detailed instructions. Peer review will be graded based on whether you provide thoughtful, constructive feedback on peers' posts. After each discussion, make sure you check out instructor's feedback to fully engaged in learning.

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PSY 301 Discussion Grading Rubrics  
Total 10 pts

	Accomplished	Acceptable	unacceptable
Initial Response (6/4/0 pts)	Make significant effort to provide complete responses within expected time frame.	Use somewhat effort to provide responses; Incomplete responses.	Makes little or no effort to provide responses.
Peer Review (2/1/0 pts)	One or more peer reviews; provided constructive feedback within expected time frame.	One or more peer reviews; feedback lacked insight/constructivism.	No peer review provided.
Netiquette (2/1/0 pts)	Adequate netiquette; use proper language and title; Respectful, friendly, positive, and self-reflective.	Show somewhat netiquette.	Lack of netiquette.

- 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.
- III. **Exams** (4 exams @ 100 pts each; total 400 points) -- There will be four 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.

Important:

1. I will throw in extra credit activities throughout the semester **in varied** formats. Deadlines of the quizzes will be announced on D2L. The points you earn on

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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**.

**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 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.

## 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 technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

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

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LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

## **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](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work 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.

### **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 found here:

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

## **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 found here:

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

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

I am here to support you. My 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. Your assignments will be graded and returned to you within one week.

## **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 301-01W); additional information if desired (e.g. mean and standard deviation)
- 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**

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

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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.

**IMPORTANT:**

AI: Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

**In this course, the use of such AI software for individual work or for the entire course is DISALLOWED.** Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. **I will be use AI-enabled Turnitin to check students' work throughout this semester.**

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

**Late Work:** Please submit all assignments on time. When an assignment is

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submitted past the deadline, a 2-point penalty will be imposed for each day that the assignment is submitted past the due date, up to 5 days. After which, the assignment will automatically be scored as a zero (i.e., no credit granted).

Please note that **computer issues will not be considered as an excuse for failing to complete the quizzes 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 students' 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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

#### **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 student academic dishonesty policy  
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy

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## [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

### **Artificial Intelligence**

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

### **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 Services  
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

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**Phone (903) 886-5930**

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

**Website:** <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

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 regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://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.

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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/rulesProcedures/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.

## **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

### **Counseling Center Services**

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# Tentative Course Calendar

Week	Date	Topic	Due Date
1	8/26-30	Syllabus	
2	9/2-6	Chapter 1: Data	Discussion c1
3	9/9-13	Chapter 3: Sample	Discussion c3
4	9/16-20	Chapter 8: Variable, Bias, Reliability, and Validity	Discussion 8
5	9/23-27	Review #1 c1, 3, 8	Quiz #1(c1, 3, 8) <b>Exam 1</b>
6	9/30-10/4	Chapters 10 & 11: Graphs	Discussion 11
7	10/7-11	Chapter 12: Using Numbers in Describing Data	Discussion 12
8	10/14-18	Review #2 c10, 11, 12	Quiz #2 (c10,11,12) <b>Exam 2</b>
9	10/21-25	Chapter 13: Everything about Normal Distribution	Discussion 13a
10	10/28-11/1	Chapter 13: Everything about Normal Distribution	Discussion 13b
11	11/4-8	Chapter 17&18: What is Your "Chance"?	Discussion 18
12	11/11-15	Review #3 c13, 17, 18	Quiz #3 (C13, 17, 18) <b>Exam 3</b>
13	11/18-22	Chapter 21: Understanding Confidence Interval	Discussions 21a & 21b
14	11/25-29	Thanksgiving Break	
15	12/2-6	Chapter 22: What is Statistical Significance? Review #4 c21&22	Discussion 22 Quiz #4 (C21, 22)
16		<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	

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