



PSY 301.01W UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025
Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Leon King, MS, COTA

Office Location: Via Zoom

Office Hours: [Zoom office hours] Monday – Thursday 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Email Address: Leon.king@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 hours on weekdays

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required:

Urduan, T. (2022). *Statistics In Plain English* (5th ed.)

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.

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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 after completing this course, 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
- 5) Understand how to read, interpret and create evidence-based journal articles

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.

Instructional Methods

This is an online course, which is not to be interpreted as self-paced. Rather, you are required to log on regularly (preferably every day) to succeed. You may consume the material at a more rapid pace than set by the schedule below, but assignments will still take place according to the schedule. **If you are unable to complete an assignment in this time frame, you must contact me ahead of time to re-schedule.**

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

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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.

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 is 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:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Discussion Board Assignments	10%
Weekly Assignments	30%
Journal Article Critique	30%
Mini Research Plan	30%
Total	100%

Discussion Board Assignments – Throughout this course, students will engage in threaded discussion board assignments related to a variety of topics regarding statistics and research.

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Each student must respond to the discussion prompt and then respond to at least two peers. To obtain full credit on discussion board assignments, all three postings must be completed, (i.e., an initial post and two peer responses) as well as meeting the minimum word requirement which will be provided in the discussions based on the topic discussed that week. There will be NO make up opportunities for missed discussion board assignments, due to the fact that once the discussion board assignment closes, we are done discussing the topic and moving on to the next topic.

Weekly Assignments - Each week after reading the assigned chapter for that week, there will be an accompanying assignment. Most weeks will mimic the practice exercises at the end of the chapter; however, the actual problem will be slightly different in wording than the practice problems at the end of the chapter. The student may type out the answers if the question is asking for a statement and if a question is mathematical in nature, if the student can show his/her work on a computer, that is acceptable. Alternatively, the student is free to neatly write work out the mathematical problem on paper, scan the problems worked out on paper and upload it to the assignment link. I will drop the lowest weekly assignment grade. All weekly assignments will be due by 11:59 on the Saturday of the week in which they are assigned. **If the student is asked to complete a mathematical problem, I must see the students' work to receive credit!**

Journal Article Critique – Three times throughout the semester, the student will be required to retrieve a journal article related to psychology, (or other field of study based on their major) to analyze and critique. The student will be required to read the articles and answer a series of questions about the article. The student will retain both their original article along with their critique of the article to use for the final project in this class. For this reason, while the student will be locating three different journal articles throughout the semester, the topic should not change. For example, if the student is interested in learning how sleep impacts grades in college, then the student will locate three articles on how sleep impacts grades in college. All critiques will be due on Saturday evening at 11:59 on the weeks in which they are assigned.

Mini Research Plan – The mini research plan is your major assignment/final for this course. The students will be working on their mini research plan throughout the semester as each journal article critique will play a role in the completion of this assignment. Essentially, each student will be expected to create a brief draft of a study that he/she might choose to do someday in the future, although if the student were to actually want to conduct the research project, much more will be need to be added. The aim of this project is just to learn the flow of the initial step of developing a research study. More details along with a template will be provided in D2L.

Research Participation:

One of the goals of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at East Texas A&M, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be **required** to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

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Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free *punctual participant credits*. **In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits.** 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 ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

Because students enrolled in this course are required to complete both three journal critiques and complete a mini research plan to successfully pass this course, students will NOT be required to complete the SONA research study requirements, however, students who do complete the SONA requirements will receive 3 percentage points added to their final grade. This means that if a student completes the SONA research requirements and earns an 87%, the student will have a final grade of 90% in this course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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>

LMS Browser Support:

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

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.

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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, an East Texas A&M 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.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

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

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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 summer picture you took (no personal image needed) 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: East Texas A&M University 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 author's 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.

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

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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 East Texas A&M University 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
[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>

East Texas A&M Attendance

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

Artificial Intelligence

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East Texas A&M 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).

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

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: 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.



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East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week:	Dates:	Topic(s):	Assignment(s):
1	08/25 - 08/30	Introductions and Searching the Literature Handout	Discussion Board
2	08/31 - 9/06	Ch. 1 Introduction to Social Science Research, Ch 2. Measures of Central Tendency	Weekly Assignment
3	09/07 - 09/13	Ch. 3 Measures of Variability	Weekly Assignment
4	09/14 - 09/20	Ch. 4 The Normal Distribution	Weekly Assignment
5	09/21 - 09/27	Ch. 5 Standardization and z-scores	Weekly Assignment, Formulating your research question discussion
6	09/28 - 10/04	Ch. 6 Standard Error	Weekly Assignment
7	10/05 - 10/11	Ch. 7 Statistical Significance, Effect Size and Confidence Intervals	Weekly Assignment, Discussion on locating your articles
8	10/12 - 10/18	Chapter 8 <i>T</i> Tests	Weekly Assignment, Journal Article Critique
9	10/19- 10/25	Chapter 9 One-Way Analysis of Variance	Weekly Assignment, Journal Article Critique
10	10/26 - 11/01	Chapter 10 Factorial Analysis	Weekly Assignment, Journal Article Critique

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11	11/02 - 11/08	Chapter 11 Repeated-Measures Analysis	Weekly Assignment
12	11/09 - 11/15	Chapter 12 Correlation	Weekly Assignment
13	11/16 - 11/22	Chapter 13 Regression	Weekly Assignment
14	11/23 - 11/29	Reach Plan Rough Draft	Research Plan Discussion
15	11/30 - 12/06	Work on Mini Research Plan	
16	12/07 - 12/12	Mini Research Plan Due	Submit Mini Research Plan

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