



Soc 576 01W: Data Analysis in Social Research

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2026

Meets 1/29/2026 to 5/8/2026

Web Based Class

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Farris, Professor

Office Location: Ferguson 218

Office Hours: Online and by appointment

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Nicole.Farris@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **Email**

Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required : Frankfort-Nachmias, C., Leon-Guerrero, A. Y., & Davis, G. (2020).

Social Statistics for a Diverse Society (9th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.

Other readings will be posted on D2L.

Software Required: SPSS Grad Pack (available at IBM, or use SPSS on a campus computer)

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Caldwell, S. (2013). *Statistics unplugged*. Wadsworth

Cengage Learning.

The *syllabus/schedule are subject to change*.

Course Description

Students are exposed to basic techniques of data analysis in social research, particularly by use of computers. Special attention is given to tabulation, statistical testing, and interpretation of data. Analysis of variance, multiple regression, dummy variable regression, path analysis and related topics will be covered with computer application for problem solving. Three semester hours.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

This course provides an advanced statistics for students who have completed basic descriptive and inferential statistics courses at undergraduate level. This course emphasizes procedures that are especially appropriate for social science data analysis and for completion of your research proposal designed in your SOC 575 course. The main goals of the course are:

- To review basic statistical symbols and be able to think graphically based on statistic data;
- To enhance understanding about key concepts in statistics in sociological literature that employs data analysis;
- To acquire the ability to use appropriate statistical techniques to answer research questions;
- To learn how to organize, analyze and present statistical data for research papers, particularly for your master thesis;
- The course also provides an introduction to using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) to set up data files, manipulate variables and run statistical programs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the Learning Management System, Powerpoint, Microsoft Word, and Internet.

Instructional Methods

This course is entirely web based. We will not meet in person. The course is fully asynchronous, which means that not everyone is participating at the same time. You can access the course any time, day or night, from anywhere that you have an internet connection. You should log in to the course on BrightSpace on a regular basis to keep up with class assignments.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Taking an online class is different than taking a face-to-face class. You will largely be teaching yourself using materials I provide. That's what life-long learning is all about. You will do much of your communicating by writing. So, as a result, there will likely be more writing than in fully face-to-face classes.

For online classes, the roles of the teacher and the student are reversed. I am a facilitator, guide, coach, or resource, and am responsible for creating an effective learning environment. Your job is to use that environment to learn – interact with the materials, construct and share information, manage your time effectively, and use that time for critical thinking, reflection, and application. You are in control and responsible

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for your own learning. I am here to support and help you, but it is up to you to ask for help when you need it. Unlike fully face-to-face classes, I cannot see the confused look on your face when something doesn't make sense. Please communicate with me.

GRADING

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

A = 270-300 points

B = 240-269 points

C = 210-239 points

D = 180-209 points

F = 179 or less points

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

Assessments

Activities: 5@20 points = 100 points

Discussions: 5@20 points = 100 points

Assignments: 5@20 points = 100 points

Total = 300 points

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>

LMS Browser Support:

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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.

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

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Assignments

Students who need extra time may submit assignments (excluding discussion board postings) up to one week after the assignment due date. Discussion board submissions will not be accepted for credit after the deadline except in extenuating circumstances.

A penalty of 10 percent of the total value of the assignment will be applied to the grade achieved on the late assignment regardless of the day of the week on which the work is submitted.

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Students who submit assignments more than one week late will receive a grade of zero on the assignment unless they have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

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/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

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

AI IN DR. FARRIS' CLASSROOM

You're welcome to use AI tools (like ChatGPT), Grammarly, or similar support services in this class—as long as you're using them the way you'd use me: as a resource to support your learning, not as a shortcut to avoid doing the work.

Think of it like this:

Would you ask me to write your discussion post for you?

Would you ask me to complete your final project or reflection?

Probably not—and if you did, I'd (kindly) say no!

But would you ask me to help brainstorm ideas, explain a sociological concept, give feedback on a rough draft, or suggest ways to structure your response?

Absolutely. That's using support in a way that still keeps the work (and the learning) yours.

If you do use any AI tools (including Grammarly or ChatGPT), you must note it at the bottom of your assignment.

Just a short line is fine—for example:

- “I used Grammarly to check grammar and clarity.”
- “ChatGPT helped me outline my initial ideas for this post.”
- “I asked ChatGPT to explain symbolic interactionism in simpler terms.”

Being transparent helps build trust and keeps our academic work ethical and clear.

If you're ever unsure whether you're using AI appropriately, just ask yourself: *Is this something I would ask my professor to do for me?*

If the answer is yes, you're probably on the right track.

A Note on AI/ChatGPT Use

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.

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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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

For this course, the use of AI is NOT allowed. The use of AI will result in a grade of 0 for the assignment for the first offense. The second offense will result in a grade of F for the course and submission to the academic dishonesty committee.

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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/>

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

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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/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

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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

All assignments will be due on Sunday by 11:59pm unless otherwise noted.

Week
1: 1/29: Syllabus Test/Diagnostic Exam. SPSS and GSS Intro. Read: Chapter 1 in Text; Discussion Question 1
2: 2/2: Review and Basic Stats Read: Chapter 2 in Text; Activity 1
3: 2/9: Measures of Central Tendency, Measures of Variability, SPSS Practice Read: Chapter 3 and 4 in Text; Assignment 1

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4: 2/16: Normal Distribution, SPSS Practice Read: Chapter 5 in Text; Discussion Question 2
5: 2/23: Sampling and Sampling Distributions Read: Chapter 6 in Text; Activity 2
6: 3/2: Testing Hypotheses Read: Chapter 8 in Text; Assignment 2
7: 3/9 SPRING BREAK
8: 3/16: Bivariate Tables, SPSS Practice Read: Chapter 9 in Text Discussion Question 3
9: 3/23: The Chi-Square Test, SPSS Practice Read: Chapter 10 in Text; Activity 3
10: 3/30: Regression and Correlation, SPSS Practice Read: Chapter 12 in Text Assignment 3
11: 4/6: Qualitative Research Methods Read: Mack et al. (Module 1); Maxwell Discussion Question 4
12: 4/13: Participant Observation and In-Depth Interviews Read: Tracy; Mack et al. (Modules 2 and 3) Activity 4
13: 4/20: Focus Groups Read: Mack et. al. (Module 4) Assignment 4
14: 4/27: Content Analysis Read: Woodward Griffin and Griffin Discussion 5
15: 5/4: Wrap Up Part 1 Activity 5 and Assignment 5 (DUE 5/8) SHORT WEEK

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