SOCI 471 (A01) – Intermediate Social Statistics
(This course is also cross-listed with SOCI 507(A01) – (Intermediate Social Statistics)

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Baer
Email: baer@uvic.ca
Class meetings: 4:30pm-5:50pm, Mondays, Thursdays
Classroom: A317, Cornett
Lab associated with this class: 60-90 minutes, time TBA
Office phone: (250) 721-7581
Office hours: To be determined

Course Description and Objectives:
This course provides an introduction to regression models, which are used extensively in the Social Sciences. We will cover multiple regression, including dummy variable regression, how “causal assumptions” relate to regression modeling, models for mediation (intervening variables) and moderation (interactions), model diagnostics. A very basic introduction to models for binary dependent variables (“logistic regression”) will be included. If time permits, factor analysis models will be discussed.

Skills Development:
The main objective of the course is to provide participants with an ability to critically read quantitative literature in sociology journals and to give them an ability to do further work which in turn would allow them to critically assess more sophisticated work found in the high impact sociology journals. Participants should also be able to critically read and assess statistical models in social science literature in fields as diverse as health, social psychology and business and, to a limited degree, conduct their own research using the methods discussed in the course. Participants will learn how to perform computer software analysis using a statistical package called STATA.

Course Organization:
The course is set up as two 1.5-hour weekly lectures, supplemented by a 60-90 minute lab.

Evaluation:
1. A minimum of 2 computer assignments, worth 20% each. 20% x 2 = 40%
2. Mid-term test or third computer assignment 15%
3. Take-home final examination 45%

Textbooks:
Most of the material will come from class notes, including extensive powerpoint files. Additional texts available at the bookstore:

*A more detailed course outline will be distributed to students during the first week of classes.*