

SOCI 271 ¹

Introduction to Social Statistics

Instructor: Dr. Min Zhou (minzhou@uvic.ca)

Course Description:

This course introduces statistical methods for describing and analyzing quantitative data in sociology. Broadly speaking, it covers three major components: (1) graphical approaches to displaying data, (2) descriptive statistics for summarizing data, and (3) inferential statistics for generalizing beyond data to make predictions. In terms of the number of variables involved in the analysis, this course mainly examines univariate analysis (e.g., distribution and description of a single variable) and bivariate analysis (e.g., relationship between a pair of variables).

As a mandatory part of this course, the lab will teach you how to use a software package to do data analysis. Labs will also be taught online. More information will be provided by our lab instructor Ruth Kampen.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

The main focus of this course is on statistical methods commonly used in the analysis of social science data. It will not go into technical details about statistical theory. The goal of this course is twofold: it (1) helps you better understand academic work that use quantitative evidence, and (2) prepares you to conduct elementary statistical analysis in your own research.

Required Textbook:

Agresti, Alan and Christine A. Franklin. *Statistics: The Art and Science of Learning from Data*. Prentice Hall Publisher.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.