

## SOCI 5210.001/5210.601 Introduction to Social Statistics

### Course Instructor and Contact Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Cynthia M. Cready, Associate Professor

**Campus Office Location:** 288F Sycamore Hall, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of North Texas (UNT)

**Campus Office Phone:** (940) 369-8791

**Course Delivery:** Remote

**Class/Lab Time:** Tuesdays, 2:00PM-4:50PM

**Classroom/Lab:** Online, via Zoom. The instructor will send a Zoom meeting invitation to your UNT email address via the Canvas messaging system. You can access the Zoom meeting from the course website in Canvas. For details, go to [Instructions for Zoom Access via Canvas for UNT Students](#).

**Virtual Office Hours:** Thursdays 2:00-3:30PM and by appointment. For both regularly scheduled and by appointment office hours, the instructor will send a Zoom meeting invitation to your UNT email address via the Canvas messaging system.

**Email:** Use the Inbox button in Canvas to email the instructor. When you send your message, it will go to the instructor's UNT email address. The Inbox button (represented by the box with sheet of paper sticking up out of it icon) is located on the left side of your computer screen after logon to Canvas. The instructor will make every effort to respond to your message within 24 hours.

### Course Prerequisite

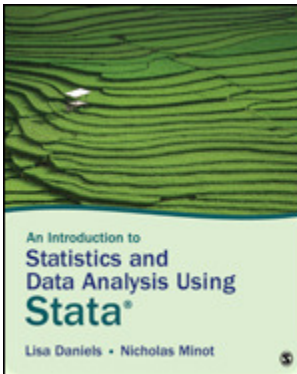
Must have passed SOCI 3280 Quantitative Data Analysis or equivalent with a "C."

### Course Description

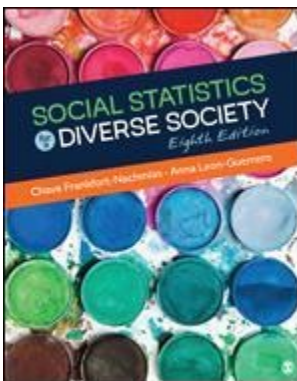
This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics used in analyses of data in the social sciences. The course has an applied, "hands-on" focus. After completing the course, you should be able to choose the appropriate statistics for a given research question, calculate these statistics and/or generate them using Stata<sup>®</sup> and/or SPSS<sup>®</sup> for Windows<sup>®</sup>—widely used statistical software packages—and interpret the results. You should also be able to read and interpret published data analyses intelligently and critically. Finally, you should be able to apply the tools learned in the course successfully in your own research (e.g., your master's thesis). Each three-hour class typically will consist of approximately a two-hour "lecture/presentation" and an approximately one-hour computer lab session.

## Course Materials

### Textbooks



1. Daniels, L., & Minot, N. (2019). *An introduction to statistics and data analysis using Stata®: From research design to final report*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN 9781506371832 [hereafter referenced as D&M].



2. Frankfort-Nachmias, C., & Leon-Guerrero, A. (2017). *Social statistics for a diverse society* (8th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN 978-1-5063-4720-2 [hereafter referenced as SSDS]. If you took SOCI 3280 Quantitative Data Analysis with me, this was our textbook.

### Data

For some examples and some of the assignments throughout the semester, we will be using data drawn from various years of the General Social Survey (GSS). Go to the [GSS](#) website for a detailed codebook. Other public-use datasets may also be used in this course. All datasets needed for the lab/homework assignments will be posted to the course website in [Canvas](#). Although we will be performing many of the Stata® or SPSS® statistical software procedures needed for assignments together in class/lab sessions, you will need access to the software. If you do not want to buy or rent it, there are two options. Go to a UNT Student Computer Lab (if open, see [Student Computer Labs and Hours](#)) or use the newly available desktop streaming service. Click on [Desktop Streaming Service](#) for details regarding this service.

### Calculator

You will need a simple calculator with a square root key.

## Course Delivery & Organization

The course will be delivered remotely via Zoom and [Canvas](#).

## Course Technology & Skills

### Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Webcam
- Microphone
- Speakers
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](#)

### Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

Course-specific technical skills learners must have to succeed in the course:

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing word processing and presentation software (e.g., Microsoft Office 365) (See [Accessing Software Needed for Your Course](#).)
- Accessing statistical software packages (e.g., , Stata®, SPSS® for Windows®) (See [Accessing Software Needed for Your Course](#).)
- Scanning pages of an assignment into a single document pdf file

### Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk website](#)

**Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu

**Phone:** (940) 565-2324

**In Person:** 130 Sage Hall

**Walk-In Availability:** 8am-9pm

**Telephone Availability:**

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Laptop Checkout:** 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#).

## Course Requirements

### Lecture/Lab Attendance

Because the course material is cumulative, it is essential that you attend all “lectures/presentations” and computer lab sessions and keep up with the readings and lab/homework assignments.

### Reading Assignments

You are responsible for reading the assigned materials before the class period indicated on the attached course outline.

### Lab/Homework Assignments

There will be eight lab/homework assignments/problem sets. Each is worth roughly 3.75% of your final grade. The lab/homework assignments will help you apply what you learn in class and prepare you for the exams. Your answers to lab/homework assignment questions should be numbered and typed in complete sentences and all pages saved as one .pdf file using your last name and the lab/homework assignment number (e.g., YourlastnameHW1). Use the dedicated submission link provided for the lab/homework assignment on the Modules page of the course website in Canvas to submit your .pdf file of answers as an attachment. Every effort will be made to provide feedback on a lab/homework assignment before the next week’s lab/homework assignment is due. Points will be deducted for lab/homework assignments submitted past their due date (typically, on a Tuesday at 11:59PM).

### Research Application

There will be one research application. More information on this assignment will be provided in a separate document later in the course. In brief, you will use statistics covered in this course on data from a public-use data set to analyze the relationship between a dependent variable (what you are trying to understand or explain) and an independent variable, controlling for a third variable. You will orally present your research application in a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation (saved as a .pdf) to the class via Zoom on Tuesday, December 1 or Tuesday, December 8. You will be required to meet with the instructor about your research application at least once before your presentation. The final version of your Microsoft PowerPoint slides is due Tuesday, December 8 at 11:59PM, and should be submitted as an attachment (in .pdf format) using the dedicated submission link in the course website in Canvas. The research application is worth 20% of your final grade.

### Getting Help with an Assignment or the Research Application

If you need help with an assignment/problem set or the research application, contact the instructor by using the Inbox button in Canvas. When you send your message to the instructor using this function, it will go to the instructor’s UNT email address. Every effort will be made to respond to your email within 24 hours. You may also make an appointment to meet with the instructor online via Zoom. PLEASE NOTE: You may not copy another student’s work or allow another student to copy yours. Both giving/getting unauthorized help and copying another student’s work are violations of UNT’s [Code of Student Conduct](#).

### Examinations

There will be two open book and notes exams. They will be released on the course website in Canvas at 2:00PM on Tuesday, September 22 and Tuesday, November 3, respectively, and due on the following Friday at 11:59PM. Exam questions will be drawn from material covered in the assigned readings, lab/homework assignments, classroom lectures and discussions, and lab sessions. Lecture/lab handouts should be considered assigned reading and studied as such. Technically, each of the exams covers a

different set of material. However, please note that by its very nature the course material is cumulative. Later chapters, exercises, and exams build on material presented in earlier chapters, exercises, and exams. You will not be tested on the use of Stata® or SPSS® commands. A review packet (including example questions from past exams and answer key) will be distributed at least one week before each exam. You will be permitted to make-up a missed exam only if you have a university-excused absence and the appropriate documentation to back it up. Each of the exams is worth 25% of your final grade.

### **Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or (940) 565-2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

## **Evaluation**

### **Grading**

To summarize, course grades are based on the scores of 11 graded components, 8 lab/homework assignments or problem sets (each worth about 3.75%), 1 research application (worth 20%) and two in-class exams (each worth 25%). Scores on all graded components use a 100-point scale. For the course grade, the following numerical ranges translate into letter grades: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 or lower.

### **Extra Credit**

Opportunities to earn “bonus” points may be offered at the instructor’s discretion. Any such opportunity will be offered to the class as a whole.

## **UNT Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. In this course, a graded assignment compromised by academic dishonesty will earn a zero.

### **Disability Access**

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one’s specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain

a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#).

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation**

According to UNT Policy 16.004, Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation, UNT prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the course website on Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](http://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](#).

### **Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties**

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the

time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. You should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu) or (940) 565-2324. Obtain, record, and retain your incident report number from the UNT Student Help Desk. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with you to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

### **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Coursework completed via the Canvas on-line system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See [UNT Policy 04.008, Records Management and Retention](#), for additional information.

### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at (940) 565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at [oeo@unt.edu](mailto:oeo@unt.edu) or at (940) 565-2759.

### **Student Evaluation Administration Dates**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the Fall 2020 semester, the surveys will be made available November 16 – December 3. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto:no-reply@iasystem.org)) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website](#) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses. See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](#).



## Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

### Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Student and Exchange Visitor Program](#) website. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f) (6) (G).

The paragraph reads:

For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F–1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

1. Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
2. Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the UNT International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about their need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they should contact the UNT ISSS Office ([internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## Academic Support & Student Services

### Student Support Services

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [UNT Care Team](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](#)
- [Individual Counseling](#)
- [Registrar](#)
- [Financial Aid](#)



- [Student Legal Services](#)
- [Career Center](#)
- [Multicultural Center](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](#)
- [Pride Alliance](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry](#)

**Academic Support Services**

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Lab](#)

**NOTE: The following schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and posted in Canvas.**

### Weekly Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
Week 1, 08/25	Course Overview The What & the Why of Statistics Variables & Their Distributions	Required: D&M, Ch. 1, 3-4, 6 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 1 & 2	
Week 2, 09/01	Central Tendency & Variability	Required: D&M, Ch. 1, 3-4, 6 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 3 & 4	Lab/Homework 1
Week 3, 09/08	The Normal Distribution, Sampling, Sampling Distributions & Estimation	Required: D&M, Ch. 2 & 7 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 5-6 & 7	Lab/Homework 2
Week 4, 09/15	Testing Hypotheses about Population Means	Required: D&M, Ch. 8 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 8	Lab/Homework 3
Week 5, 09/22	First Exam (Weeks 1-3)		First Exam, Released 09/22 2:00PM and Due 09/25 11:59PM
Week 6, 09/29	More on Testing Hypotheses about Population Means	Required: D&M, Ch. 9 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 8	
Week 7, 10/06	The Cross-Tabulation & Chi- Squared	Required: D&M, Ch. 11 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 9-10	Lab/Homework 4
Week 8, 10/13	More on Cross-Tabulated Data		Lab/Homework 5
Week 9, 10/20	Scatterplot & Correlation	Required: D&M, Ch. 12 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 12	Lab/Homework 6
Week 10, 10/27	Introduction to Regression	Required: D&M, Ch. 12 Recommended: SSDS, Ch. 12	Lab/Homework 7
Week 11, 11/03	Second Exam (Weeks 4, 6-9)		Second Exam, Released 11/03 2:00PM and Due 11/06 11:59PM
Week 12, 11/10	Introduction to Regression		Lab/Homework 8
Week 13, 11/17	Research Application Workshops	Required: D&M, Ch. 15	
Week 14, 11/24	Research Application Workshops		1-on-1 Meeting with Instructor
Week 15, 12/01	Student Oral and PowerPoint Presentations of Research Applications via Zoom		
Week 16, 12/08	Student Oral and PowerPoint Presentations of Research Applications via Zoom		Research Application