Statistical Principles of Psychological Research Syllabus
Psychology 210, Section 002
Spring 2016*

Instructor: Viji Sathy

Course Description
Psychology 210 introduces some of the statistical methods and techniques underlying psychological research. We focus on descriptive and inferential statistical techniques, and the manner by which they may be employed to design psychological experiments and analyze behavioral data. Not only does statistics offer a core background for understanding how psychologists investigate human behavior, it is a useful tool for navigating research claims and data you may encounter in your everyday life.

Course Website
Please see the Sakai site for course information, required materials and grades. You will use Sakai to access required materials and complete assignments and online quizzes. Website:
https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/psych210spring16

Meeting Times
We will meet as a large group Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:45 PM in Hamilton 100. Recitations will begin the first full week of classes. Additional recitation session information is available on the course site (see Resources > Your stats coaches...)

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*Although changes are not anticipated, the instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus or schedule including project due dates and test dates. These changes will be announced as early as possible.

Instructional Team

TA: Kathryn Weatherford
TA: Vanessa Volpe
TA: Page Dobson
TA: Lisa Brownstone

Undergraduate Learning Assistants
Hannah B., Samantha F., Burhan K., Emily K., & Swapnil P.

You and Your Peers
In this course you will contribute to your peers’ understanding of the material. You are a key component to our class’ success.

Campus Resources
The Learning Center offers a variety of services in addition to peer tutoring for Psych 210. Additionally, the Writing Center is available to assist with papers. Other resources you should seek out are Career Services and Undergraduate Research. If you experience an emergency this semester, please contact the Dean of Students Office. They will notify all of your instructors so that you will not have to. You have paid for all of these wonderful resources, please use them!

Course Schedule
The schedule for this term can be found at http://tinyurl.com/psych210spring16. The schedule contains topics for discussion by date, information about reading/videos required for class meetings, deadlines for graded work, as well as links to supplemental notes and practice problems.

Contacting Us
Besides the many times to meet us live (recitation sections, class, and office hours) throughout the week TA’s (and students!) will be available to answer questions online. In this course we will use Piazza for correspondence about course material (sign up here: piazza.com/unc/spring2016/psych210). If your question pertains to a private matter it can be sent to: psy210@unc.edu.

Piazza should be used for any purpose including administrative questions (when class will meet, recitation times/locations, missed assignments, etc.), concept questions (questions related to the subject of the course, quiz questions, etc.), and technological questions (pollevewhere, SPSS, Java, etc.). If you know the answer to a question, please post it! When Piazza is used well, you can get prompt helpful feedback from both peers and instructors. From Monday-Thursday, If you send a question through Piazza you should expect a response within 24 hours. From Friday-Sunday and on holidays you should expect a response within 48 hours. Please note if the question is particularly complex, you might be directed to a recitation or office hour session. If you send in a question and do not get a response in the specified time, please email me at: viji.sathy@unc.edu.

Office hours and locations can be found on the course site under Resources > Your stats coaches. Your TAs and I will host office hours weekly and we will offer additional hours near exam times.

All TAs will be available for office hours each week and you are welcome to attend any TA’s office hours and do not need to be registered in their section to attend. The room for their office hours can accommodate many students, so please use this as a time to request review of topics or simply as a “study hall” as you work through assignments or quizzes.

Dr. Sathy will be available for office hours through the Sign-up tool in Sakai. Please use this as an opportunity to introduce yourself! If you have questions that you feel will exceed the allotted appointment time, feel free to reserve more than one appointment. My office is in Davie room 332. Email is preferred, but emergencies come up, so call me at: ____________________________ between 7am-11pm. Please no text messages.

We hope that all of you take advantage of office hours to talk about the course, the homework, or just chat.
What You Will Need

A commitment to succeed in the course by 1) preparing for class, 2) actively participating in class, 3) practicing concepts after class (see section for how to do well in this course)

Laptop: At least once a week, possibly both days in class, we’ll be using online resources, collecting and analyzing data, conducting research, completing assignments and online quizzes.

You will need to bring your laptop to class. You will be asked to put your laptop away when it is not in use.

Cell Phone or Laptop for Pollev everywhere: We will be using an online polling site in class. Please plan to use either your cell phone or laptop to submit responses. Instructions for registering for pollev everywhere can be found on Sakai. You will need to join our class group: http://bit.ly/210sp16pollev

Calculator: You will be asked to use a non-graphing calculator in this class. Please bring a calculator to class meetings. The calculator should be able to do basic functions, such as taking a square root and simple arithmetic functions. Graphing calculators & cell phones will not be allowed during exams. In the weeks leading up to the first exam, I will have some calculators available for sale at cost ($1).

Access to SPSS. We will be using SPSS in class and for assignments. SPSS is a very user-friendly statistical software package. My intention is to give you the opportunity to experience statistical computing as it is done in the field, and to give you some experience that will be useful for future coursework and the work force. SPSS can be accessed without a license through virtual lab or the Odum Institute on campus (see Resources > SPSS > Accessing SPSS).

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Advice from Former Students

In these boxes you’ll find comments collected from students. They were asked to provide advice, and here is a sampling with an emphasis on most frequently occurring themes.

- I learned how to be a better student watching the videos before class and coming prepared for the quizzes made a definite difference in my learning experience in this class. I never really felt lost with the material because I was always prepared. Keep up with the material and go to recitation. You’ll be fine! 😊

- Not only did I learn what I expected from a statistics course, but I learned that staying on top of the work and dedicated to the work will keep you going longer and stronger than otherwise. STAY ON TOP OF THE WORK & YOU’Ll DO GREAT!

- Watch every video and use every extra resource that is given to you. Study hard and have fun.

- Keep up with the videos! Don’t just play them while doing something else. Take notes and pay attention while watching them. All the resources provided seem overwhelming at first, but use them. They’re there for a reason.

- I learned that hard work trumps talent any day. Statistics doesn’t have to be a foreign subject. I learned that SPSS is my friend and can be very valuable at times.

- Watch the videos! Take notes on videos and pay attention in class. Go to class! And go to recitation! It is super helpful. Good luck!

- Watch the videos, come to class, go to recitation. Difficult content but possible to do very well! Believe in yourself!

What is Recommended

Videos/Screencasts: In this course, you will have access to videos for each topic. The course schedule indicates which topics you should be familiar with prior to coming to class. You have the choice of using either the videos or textbook (information below) to prepare. Data from previous semesters indicate that most students watch the videos, but some prefer the textbook. You will be quizzed on the material in class.

Suggested Textbook: Privitera, G. J. (2012). Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. You are not required to purchase the textbook. Copies of the textbook are also available at the undergraduate library reserves if you choose to wait and decide if it would be helpful to you. If you choose to buy the book, you may purchase either the textbook or ebook. Most introductory statistics books will suffice, but for consistency, I use the notation and language in this textbook.

Topic Notes: I will post skeletal notes on each topic we will discuss on Sakai (Resources > Topic Notes). The notes often contain practice problems that you will see in videos. You may find it helpful to view the notes as you watch videos in addition to printing and bringing the notes to class (or bringing your laptop to access them).

See Sakai for additional online resources in this course. There are many non-graded practice opportunities online to assist you in your learning.

Prerequisites/CR

Psyc 101 is a prerequisite to this course. Although the course does not emphasize mathematics, knowledge of the basics of algebra (the ideas of equations and manipulation of variables) and geometry (plotting points on a plane, the equation of a line) are necessary; if you feel ill-prepared in any of those areas, a quick review might be useful (Appendix A of your textbook, particularly A.8 and A.9 is a good review).
EVALUATION

Course Requirements

Exams (Exam 1: 20%, Exam 2: 20%, Final Exam: 35%): Your exams will be administered in the large class meeting. The final exam will be cumulative. The final exam will replace an Exam 1 or 2 grade if it is higher than that grade (the replacement will only be made for one exam and not both). If you miss either Exam 1 or 2, you will receive a 0 for that exam and the final exam will replace that missed exam. No make-up exams will be given. The final exam can only replace one exam, so in the event that both exam 1 and 2 are missed, you will receive a 0 for 20% of your grade and the final will be worth 55% of your grade.

Quizzes (5%): Throughout the semester there will be short quizzes to help you better understand concepts in this course. You will find these quizzes on Sakai. Although you will be allowed to use your books and notes during the quizzes, I recommend that you attempt them without any guidance first and then consult additional resources when necessary. You may also work with peers or ask TAs or peer mentors for guidance on quiz questions. Quizzes cannot be made up, and will be automatically taken down after the deadline (see Sakai for more details about quizzes). It will be your responsibility to ensure that Sakai records a grade in the grade center after you have completed each quiz.

Assignments (10%): Assignments will be posted to Sakai, and submitted in Sakai (unless otherwise stated). It is your responsibility to ensure that your completed assignment is submitted prior to the deadline. It is also your responsibility to make sure what you have uploaded is the correct document. You are encouraged to work together on your assignments, but be sure that you understand the material and your write-ups must be independent. If you submit an assignment after the deadline, there is an automatic 1-point deduction (assignments are worth 4 points each). Additionally, there is a 3-point deduction for each day it is late.

Grades

Your final grade will be based on a combination of the course requirements and will be weighted as indicated above and converted to a percentage. Because extra credit is offered, your grade will not be rounded (rouding only impacts a few students, but extra credit is available to all). Letter grades will follow the standard scale:

A = 93.00-100.00%  
A- = 90.00-92.99%  
B+ = 87.00-89.99%  
B = 83.00-86.99%  
B- = 80.00-82.99%  
C+ = 77.00-79.99%  
C = 73.00-76.99%  
C- = 70.00-72.99%  
D+ = 67.00-69.99%  
D = 60.00-66.99%  
F = below 60%

Honor Code

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code (http://honor.unc.edu/). You should not read or in other ways use written work that other students have prepared for PSYC 210/215 in completing your assignments, quizzes or exams. This applies to work done by other students in your own section, in other sections, or from past semesters. Furthermore, you are not to copy or post course materials (notes, videos, etc.) online without the instructor’s permission.

Course Requirements (cont)

Data Analysis Project (5%): You will collect, analyze data and report findings in a paper. The paper and interim deadlines and will be graded. Details will be provided on Sakai.

Professionalism (5%): In the first couple of class meetings we will work together as a group to determine what constitutes professional behavior. It will include but not be limited to: attendance and participation in class, group work, and digital etiquette.

Learning statistics is a cumulative process that requires patience, persistence and focus. It may be difficult to catch up if you miss class, do not keep up with the readings/videos, actively participate and turn work in regularly. Your full and active participation is required to succeed.

Recitation (+2%): Recitations provide an opportunity to work in a smaller setting on assignments and complete additional practice. You can earn extra credit in the course by participating in recitation. To earn the maximum bonus, you must be present at 90% of recitations for the full 50 minutes. Partial extra credit is available, and will be outlined on Sakai.

Advisement

Advice from Former Students

It’s really important to do all the work and do it well. While it doesn’t seem like the assignments and quizzes make up a huge portion of the course, understanding them makes the exams much easier.

Watch the videos and go to recitations. You can’t be told that enough. It is crucial to your success. Have fun!

Come to class prepared, go to recitations, and watch all of the videos!!! If you do this and concentrate in class you will do just fine.

I’ve learned that statistics matters, both to psychology and to the world at large. This course has been very hands on, and I enjoyed being able to work with real data.

Come to class prepared, go to recitations and watch all of the videos!!! If you do this and concentrate in class you will do just fine.

Keep up with the videos. It will save your life in this class.

If you do all the work and pay attention you’ll actually get the material and do well.

Even if you don’t get an A in the course, you will still walk away with a wealth of information you didn’t have before. This is a hard class, but it is worth it.

Join us!

Facebook: Psyc 210 and 270
Twitter: @vijisathy
LinkedIn: Vijisathy (alum group)
Pinterest: www.pinterest.com/vijisathy/statistics-science-fun

Just for Fun
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Advice from Former Students

This course has truly been carefully designed with our success in mind: you are given opportunities to correct mistakes, which is amazing! I've learned so much more this way: I bombed the first exam, but I did very well on the second and feel confident about the final! If you do all the work and pay attention, you'll actually get the material and do well.

Go to class, ask questions, and talk out the conceptual stuff with a friend.

If you are feeling at all anxious about this course, stop and take a deep breath for me. There is no such thing as being "bad at math," & if you work and study hard, you'll succeed. p.s. Watch ALL of the videos. Trust me.

Statistics is not a monster that is untackable but a key that can be used to unlock many doors in your future. I cannot stand math, but I like statistics. I never thought I would say that. Study hard and keep on track, it will help you. I learned that the hard way.

Watch the videos and go to recitations. You can't be told that enough. It is crucial to your success. Have fun!

I learned that an enthusiastic group of teachers and students could turn even a large class into a fun, hands-on learning environment. I also learned that statistics isn't so hard if you do the work.

Dear future student,  
Keep an open mind.  
Sincerely, Someone who did

UNC-CH provides accommodations for any student with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and believe you require accommodations, please contact the Department of Disability Services at http://disabilityservices.unc.edu. Please contact me early in the semester so we can make any necessary arrangements. In general, I ask that you schedule exams at the same time the class meets. I will upload all of the materials necessary and there is no need for you to make additional arrangements to deliver the exam.

Thrive @Carolina

Your instructional team supports the thrive @Carolina initiative. We believe all students thrive when they:

• Take full advantage of the breadth and depth of our curriculum
• Set academic and personal goals
• Take responsibility for their education, choices, & decisions

See, Say, Do Something

We're happy you are here and eager to learn. Despite our best intentions to follow a plan, life may throw us a curve ball. If you or someone you know is experiencing some distress or you are concerned about the well-being of a student, please report it here: https://deanofstudents.unc.edu/carerreport. It is important to support one another. If you see something, say and do something.

Respect

Your instructional team affirms our commitment to the following, and encourage you to as well:

• respect the dignity and essential worth of all individuals
• promote a culture of respect throughout the university community
• respect the privacy, property, and freedom of others
• reject bigotry, discrimination, violence, or intimidation of any kind
• practice personal and academic integrity and expect it from others
• promote the diversity of opinions, ideas, and backgrounds that is the lifeblood of the university.

Congratulations!

Lastly, I’d like to share this quote with you because I share this philosophy:

“We can all work together to create and sustain the kind of community where all feel welcome, respected, and free to pursue their dreams and goals and become their best and truest selves. I want to make it clear that no member of our community is less important than any other. None of us should be made to feel — in our classrooms, libraries, or laboratories, or in our offices or residence halls, or in any public or private place — that our presence here is anything other than an achievement rightly earned and celebrated.” Chancellor Folt

Congratulations on your achievement. Welcome to the course. We hope it will be a great semester for all.