Sociology 106 – Quantitative Sociological Methods

Fall 2022

Instructor: Peter Hurtubise, PhD
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Class Time: Fridays 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
Class Location: Social Sciences Building 402
Office Hours: Fridays 9 AM – 11 AM

Course Catalog Description

This course will introduce students to Quantitative Sociological Methods. This course is tailored to students with interests in research careers or further graduate studies, requiring a foundational understanding of statistics. This course explores statistics with the help of the software program STATA (please reference the following website for access information: https://software.berkeley.edu). The course focuses mostly on the collection, analysis, and interpretation of statistical data -- so that future social scientists can read and understand social research and contribute to the field.

The course revolves around three core objectives:
1) *How do I read and interpret quantitative social research more generally and create an understanding of what is happening in my field of focus?*
2) *What are the methods that I can use as a quantitative social researcher?*
3) *How do I program with Stata?*

Grading Policy

Class Discussion	30%
Midterm	30%
Final	40%

Course Policies
1) **Strategize for Success:** This course consists of many readings. Read as much as you can before the lecture, so that you can contribute to the discussion. Success in this course will require staying organized and taking notes.
2) **Do not Cheat:** Use appropriate references when completing exams and assignments. Create work that is original, so that others can learn from your unique contribution and important perspective.
3) **Keep me Updated:** If something unexpected happens in life, please keep me updated so that we can plan accordingly. This course is not meant to stress you out, yet rather to help you understand an exciting topic.

Required Text

Acock, A. (2018) *A Gentle Introduction to Stata* Stata Press Publishing.

Assignments

Weekly assignments will be posted under the announcements each week. Assignments will consist of individual research connected to one's research topic, a review of the textbook, and a series of educational videos that will provide additional support for course material.

Date	Topic	Readings
8/26	Introduction	
9/2	A Theory of Statistics	Finish Chapter 1
9/9	Variables and Entering Data	Finish Chapter 2
9/16	Descriptive Statistics	Finish Chapter 5
9/23	Assumptions and Missing Data	Finish Chapter 14
9/30	Graphing	
10/7	Two Categorical Variables	Finish Chapter 6
10/14	Tests for two means	Finish Chapter 7
10/21	Correlation	Finish Chapter 8
10/28	Midterm	
11/4	Analysis of Variance	Finish Chapter 9
11/11	Multiple Regression	Finish Chapter 10
11/18	Logistic Regression	Finish Chapter 11
11/25	Holiday	
12/2	Reliability and Validity	Finish Chapter 12
12/16	Final (11:30 AM – 2:30 PM)	

Mental Health and Wellness: All students — regardless of background or identity — may experience a range of issues that can become barriers to learning. These issues include, but are not limited to, strained relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol and other drug problems, difficulties with concentration, sleep, and eating, and/or lack of motivation. Such mental health concerns can diminish both academic performance and the capacity to participate in daily activities. In the event that you need mental health support, or are concerned about a friend, UC Berkeley offers many services, such as free short-term counseling at University Health Services. An excellent campus website having links to many resources is: http://recalibrate.berkeley.edu/ Another campus website addressing mental health services in specific reference to this time of the coronavirus pandemic is: https://uhs.berkeley.edu/coronavirus/student-mental-health **Remember that seeking help is a good and courageous thing to do — both for yourself and for those who care about you.**