

Quantitative Applications in Criminal Justice

CRJ 302.1002
Class Syllabus – Fall 2016
TuTh / 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM / GUA 2213

Instructor:
Office Location:
Office Hours: Tu 1:00pm-2:00pm, W 9:00am-12:00pm, Th 10:00am-11:00am
Phone:
E-mail:
Follow on “remind”:

STATISTICS SUPPORT RESOURCES

M/W 10:00am-11:20am & 1:00pm-4:00pm Th
9:00am-11:30am & 2:30pm-4:00pm

M 11:30am-4:00pm, Tu 11:00am-3:00pm W
11:30am-3:00pm, Th 12:00pm-3:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers students the opportunity to learn how to solve justice-related problems by describing, analyzing, and evaluating information. Students will develop skills to compute and report *statistics* using various analysis techniques. Emphasis is placed on learning to identify “bad” analyses (e.g., misuse of statistics) so that students can critically assess the merit of any statistical claim. 3 credits. Prerequisite: 301 Research Methods in Criminal Justice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- * Develop research questions to solve criminal justice problems (what questions should we ask?)
- * Evaluate the quality of information used to answer questions (is our information trustworthy?)
- * Construct visual displays to summarize information (what do our data say?)
- * Compute and interpret the results of statistical tests (what course of action will solve our problem?)
- * Assess the level of error associated with statistical findings (should we be confident in our results?)
- * Distinguish between meaningful and misleading statistical claims (is someone lying to us?)

REQUIRED LEARNING RESOURCES

- Miethe, T. D. & Madensen, T. D. (2013). *Analyzing Criminological Data* (e-Book): CJ Research Press. This text can be purchased directly from the publisher at:
<http://www.cjresearch.com/ACD/index.php>
- Students must have access to a computer that is compatible with all WebCampus functions. For a directory of 10 on-campus computer labs (other than the library), visit:
<https://oit.unlv.edu/labs-classrooms/labs/General%20Use>
- i>clicker – i>clicker or i>clicker 2 may be used

COURSE FORMAT & ASSESSMENTS

Instructional Format: Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions of readings and assignments, and in-class activities. You will work independently and in groups to answer questions, solve problems, and complete in-class projects.

Assessments - There are four types of assessments:

1. Class Activities, Attendance & Participation – You will participate in various activities and exercises throughout the semester to prepare for examinations. These exercises will require you to think critically about recent (or upcoming) course materials and appropriately apply this information to problem-based scenarios. Exercises will be completed during class, and many will require the use of the i>clicker. Students cannot “make-up” in-class assignments or activities. These assignments require class participation and, often, interaction with other students; therefore, they cannot be completed outside of the class session in which they are assigned. Attending scheduled course sessions will increase your likelihood of passing the course. If you have scheduling conflicts (including work or travel), drop this section and take the on-line-only version of this course. (Final grade percentage: **10%**)
2. Note taking Guides – You are expected to complete all note taking guides. They will help you to focus on the most important material and understand the concepts that underlie the IA and exam questions. Print the 4 guides found within each learning module and fill them out as you read each chapter. These guides must be completed before requesting assistance and brought to any meetings scheduled with the Statistics Support Resources staff or your instructor. (Final grade percentage: **No credit**)
3. Interactive Activities (IA) – Web-based activities will help you prepare for application questions on examinations. Students have unlimited opportunities to correctly answer all questions – **at least one perfect score must be obtained in order to receive credit**. These activities must be completed before the 11pm deadline posted on the course calendar. (Final grade percentage: **10%**)
4. Examinations – Four examinations will be given throughout the semester. Each exam must be completed during the two-day availability posted on the course calendar. WebCampus Support can assist you with technical problems – call 702-895-0777. Technical difficulties are not a valid excuse for missing an examination; therefore, these **assignments should be completed at least 5 hours prior to the posted deadline**. Start and submit your examination as early as possible. Zero points will be assigned for all missed assessments. (Final grade percentage: **80%**)

You are required to work ***independently*** (e.g., without the assistance of others) on all materials in this course. Those who cheat or assist others to cheat will not pass the course and will be subject to sanctions by the Office of Student Conduct, which may include academic suspension or expulsion.

Grading Scale: The grading scale used to determine final grades will be based on the following:

A = 93 – 100%	B = 83 – 87%	C = 73 – 76%	D = 63 – 66%
A- = 90 – 92%	B- = 80 – 82%	C- = 70 – 72%	D- = 60 – 62%
B+ = 87 – 89%	C+ = 77 – 79%	D+ = 67 – 69%	F = < 60%

COURSE CALENDAR

The chronology of class sessions, lecture topics, examinations, and assignment deadlines is provided below. Keep in mind these dates are tentative and may change throughout the semester.

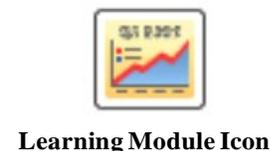
DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	MODULE	ASSESSMENTS DUE (by 11pm)
08/30 09/01	Course requirements, overview, and introduction		In-class assessment
09/06 09/08	Asking important (and interesting) questions	1	Module 1 Interactive Activities
09/13 09/15	Creating measures based on questions	2	Module 2 Interactive Activities
09/20 09/22	Collecting data to answer questions	3	Module 3 Interactive Activities
Examination #1 Available 09/23-24			
09/27 09/29	Organizing and displaying data	4	Module 4 Interactive Activities
10/04 10/06	Describing the “typical” case	5	Module 5 Interactive Activities
10/11 10/13	Assessing differences among cases	6	Module 6 Interactive Activities
Examination #2 Available 10/14-15			
10/18 10/20	Using sampling distributions to make statistical inferences	7	Module 7 Interactive Activities
10/25 10/27	Estimating populations values from sample data	8	Module 8 Interactive Activities
11/01 11/03	Testing claims or predictions	9	Module 9 Interactive Activities
Examination #3 Available 11/04-05			
11/08 11/10	Measuring the association between two qualitative variables	10	Module 10 Interactive Activities
American Society of Criminology 11/17			
Thanksgiving Break 11/24			
11/29 12/01	Analyzing the variation within and between group means	11	Module 11 Interactive Activities
12/06 12/08	Assessing the relationship between quantitative variables	12	Module 12 Interactive Activities
Examination #4 Available 12/09-10			

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is divided into 12 learning modules and 4 major sections. Each learning module corresponds with the chapters in your textbook: *Analyzing Criminological Data (ACD)*. Each section contains three modules.

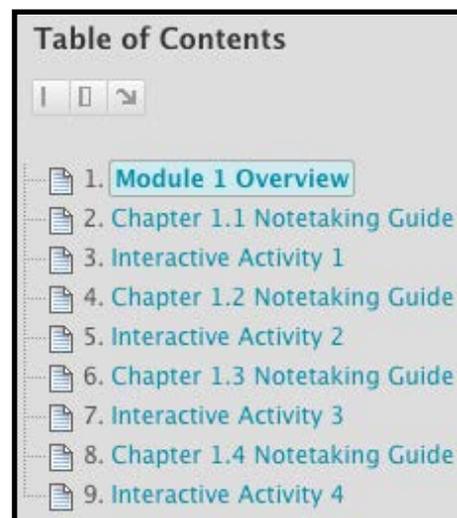
Section #	Module #	Module Topic	ACD Readings
1	1	Asking Important (and Interesting) Questions	Chapter 1
	2	Creating Measures Based on Questions	Chapter 2
	3	Collecting Data to Answer Questions	Chapter 3
2	4	Organizing and Displaying Data	Chapter 4
	5	Describing the “Typical” Case	Chapter 5
	6	Assessing Differences Among Cases	Chapter 6
3	7	Using Sampling Distributions to Make Statistical Inferences	Chapter 7
	8	Estimating Populations Values from Sample Data	Chapter 8
	9	Testing Claims or Predictions	Chapter 9
4	10	Measuring the Association Between Two Qualitative Variables	Chapter 10
	11	Analyzing the Variation Within and Between Group Means	Chapter 11
	12	Assessing the Relationship Between Quantitative Variables	Chapter 12

Each of the 12 **web-based learning modules** is organized in the same way. You should work through each learning objective in the learning module and master the material before beginning another. Every module contains three different pages.



Module Content*

Pages	Content
Module Overview	Provides a summary of module topics and learning objectives
Note Taking Guide	Offers an outline to help students take notes while reading the textbook – do not submit these, but use them to study and understand the materials
Interactive Activity (IA)	Allows students to practice the module material through an interactive assignment (may be repeated until a perfect score is obtained)



* There are 4 notetaking guides and IAs in each module (see sidebar figure) – 1 for each learning objective.

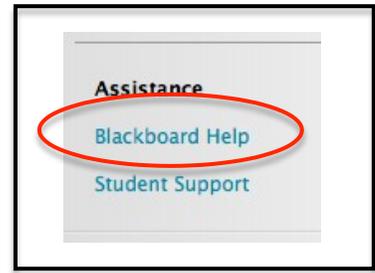
CONTACTING YOUR PROFESSOR

- You can reach your professor using the email button found under the Communication heading in the main Table of Contents. You can select “All Instructor Users” or “Single/Select Users” to find your instructor. Be sure to use your **Rebelmail** account as your default email within WebCampus. Contact the helpdesk if you need assistance. Students should expect a response within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours over the weekend.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

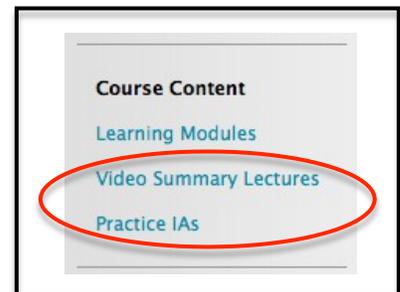
- WebCampus Support* can assist you with technical problems between 7am and 11pm – call 702-895-0777 – or click “Blackboard Help” in the main Table of Contents for troubleshooting information.



COURSE ASSISTANCE

Plan to spend 4-7 hours each week on the course materials. Your goal should be to earn perfect scores on all assessments – not simply pass the course. To help you achieve this objective, this online course offers the following special features:

- **Video Summary Lectures** – A series of short videos is available for your review. These are optional educational resource materials.
- **Practice IAs** – In addition to the graded Interactive Activities, Practice IAs will be available for you to review the material prior to the exam. You can use these to continue to gauge your learning progress after completing your graded assignments. Although these optional activities are not graded, students who continue to practice the IAs after completing their assignments will likely earn higher examination scores.
- **Statistics Support Resources** – If you are still struggling to understand the material after completing your Notetaking Guides, practicing your Interactive Activities, and attending class, you can schedule an appointment to meet with a Statistics Support Resources staff member. Meeting with a support staff member is optional, but it is highly recommended if you experience difficulties understanding the course concepts. See the first page of the syllabus for contact information.
- **“Remind” notifications** – Following the course on remind.com will allow you to receive helpful reminders and tips to help you meet deadlines and navigate the course. Although you cannot use this service to correspond with your professor, it will be used to send information directly to all students. Registering for the course through remind.com is a course requirement – all students are responsible for information shared through this service.



COURSE POLICIES

Classroom Conduct

Please be respectful and help to build a positive learning environment for you and your classmates. To enhance the class experience, students are not permitted to engage in the following:

- Use of external technologies (e.g., cell phone calls, sending text messages, use of laptops or other electronic devices), with the exception of i>clicker
 - Recordings (audio, video or photographic) are not permitted
- Speaking out of turn or sleeping
- Leaving the classroom during class
- Bringing others, including children, to class

Students who cannot adhere to these requirements will not be permitted to attend class sessions.

Attendance and Tardiness

Since class sessions will help you to achieve the course learning objectives and pass the examinations, perfect attendance is highly recommended. If you miss a class session due to an emergency, please obtain notes from another classmate. If you must arrive late, do not interrupt class activities. Let your professor know prior to the start of class if you must leave early. ***Students who arrive on time, stay throughout the entire class session, and complete all class activities are eligible to earn credit for that day's in-class activities.***

Make-up Work

This course requires that you complete all class work during a specified time period (see the course calendar). In the event of an emergency (this does not include travel or work-related conflicts), you may complete an alternative form of an exam (this may only include essay) or assignment at the discretion of the instructor. You must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the missed exam or work and be able to present documentation of the emergency. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in zero points earned for the exam or assignment.

Academic Dishonesty

Your professor will fully enforce the UNLV policy concerning academic misconduct and cheating. Working with someone else on exams or other graded materials, ***using another student's i>clicker***, and submitting another's work as your own are clear examples of cheating. If you are suspected of cheating in this course (or any other violation of the Student Conduct Code), the incident will immediately be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Aside from getting an F in the course, other penalties for cheating include expulsion from UNLV and a designation on your permanent college transcript that you were found guilty of academic misconduct. ***If you are suspected of academic misconduct, you will be required to take an oral exam to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter.*** Don't risk your entire college career by attempting to cheat!!!

Requesting Assistance

If you need assistance, stop by during professors' office hours or schedule an appointment for an alternative day and time. The preferred method of communication outside of class or office hours is email. Messages are typically returned within 24 hours during the week. You may also take advantage of the Statistics and Methods Student Resource Center. Graduate students are available to answer questions and help you master your course materials.

Required Learning Resources

To be successful in this course, you must purchase the required learning resources (i.e., the e-book and i>clicker). It is expected that you will obtain these resources prior to the second class meeting.

UNLV POLICIES

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to me during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Online Education's Accessibility policy: <https://online.unlv.edu/content/resources/accessibility>.

Religious Holidays Policy

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time

indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching

The University encourages application of transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

University Library

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is Susie Skarl (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu>.

Rebelmail

By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

For more information, go to <http://provost.unlv.edu/policies.html>