

**Dept. of Humanities and the Social Sciences,
School of Education, New York University
Basic Statistics I: E10.1085.001
Fall 2005 Syllabus
Mondays, 6:20 PM – 9:00 PM
194 Mercer, Rm 203**

Instructor: Tamika Jarrett Howell
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Office Hours: Mondays 5:00-6:00 by appointment

Course Description: This is the first semester of a two-semester sequence designed to prepare students to use statistics for data analysis. The first semester will serve as a foundation, covering methods for displaying and describing data. The course will make use of SPSS for Windows, a statistical computer software package for the social sciences.

Textbook: Data Analysis for the Behavioral Sciences using SPSS by Sharon Weinberg and Sarah Abramowitz. Cambridge University Press, 2002. The text is available at the NYU Bookstore.

Data/Computer lab: In this class, you will be required to use SPSS computer software. SPSS is available at the computer store [Student Version 10.0 or higher is recommended]. If you don't have SPSS at home, you will be able to use the computer lab in order to complete the final projects and the daily homework. The Lab is located in Tisch Hall on the LC floor [LC#8]. Bring a 3.5" disk to save your work. Data files will also be posted on Blackboard. As a student in this class, you have priority access to the computer labs. The regular lab consultants often do not know SPSS, but they can answer system level questions about accessing SPSS, saving, printing, and opening files. At the ITS Third Avenue North Lab (75 Third Avenue, Level C3), there are two statistics consultants during the day.

E-mail & Blackboard: You should obtain an email account and check it at least once weekly. E-mail is the most efficient way to communicate with me. We will make use of Blackboard 5 in this class. You must activate your HOME account here at NYU before you can access Blackboard.

Grading:

Homework: Practicing what has been covered in class is essential to learning statistics.

Homework will be assigned, collected, and graded each week. It is your responsibility to complete all homework assignments on time and to raise related questions in class. **Late homework will be not be accepted.**

Exams: There will be one midterm and one final exam during the semester. All exams are cumulative. You will be allowed to make study sheets and use them during the exams.

Project: The project will provide you an opportunity to apply your knowledge in a meaningful way. You will analyze data using SPSS, interpret your results, and communicate your findings.

Grade composition: Homework: 20% Project: 20% Midterm: 30% Final Exam: 30%

Course Outline

Date	Topics	Work Due	Notes
9/12	Overview and Introduction to SPSS (Ch. 1)		
9/19	Examining univariate distribution (Ch. 2)	Homework 1	
9/26	Measures of location, spread and skewness (Ch. 3)	Homework 2	
10/3	Re-expressing variables: Transformations (Ch. 4)	Homework 3	6:45-9:25, Tisch Hall LC-7
10/10	Holiday		No Class
10/17	Exploring relationships between variables (Ch. 5)	Homework 4	
10/24	Midterm Review	Homework 5	Midterm review due (optional)
10/31	MIDTERM		Project available on Blackboard
11/7	Exploring relationships between variables (Ch. 5 cont'd) Simple Linear Regression (Ch. 6)		194 Mercer, Rm 304
11/14	Simple Linear Regression (Ch. 6 cont'd)	Homework 6	
11/21	Probability Fundamentals (Ch. 7)	Homework 7	
11/23	NYU Legislative Day: Review of materials, Project	Homework 8	
11/28	Theoretical Probability Models (Ch. 8)	Homework 9	
12/5	Review for Final Exam	Homework 10 Project Due	Final review due (optional)
12/12	FINAL EXAM		Last class meeting