Course Description PSY281 GMCS-428 Spring 2011

This course will give you the opportunity to learn some very marketable skills for a wide range of professional careers, upper-division courses, and graduate school: conducting and interpreting basic statistical analyses using SPSS computer software. You will learn how to enter data, produce graphical displays, obtain descriptive statistics, conduct hypothesis tests, and -- most importantly -- make sense of and write about statistical analyses.

The software package used in this class is SPSS Statistics 17.0 for Macintosh computers running OS X. It is very similar to SPSS Statistics 17.0 for Windows and the skills you learn will translate to a non-Macintosh environment. The computer skills taught in this class will come in very handy in future classes (e.g., PSY301, PSY370, PSY410), many professional careers (e.g., business, psychology, education, counseling, research, teaching), and your private live (e.g., medical and psychological test, elections, opinion polls, financial planning).

To earn credit for PSY281 toward your psychology major, you must have already gotten credit in a three-unit statistics course without a computer laboratory component. If this is not the case, let the TA know ASAP, because you cannot receive credit for PSY281.

If you are not a psychology major, you may not need to take PSY281. Check with your academic advisor.

What to Bring to the Computer Lab

- 1. Yourself! Attendance is mandatory for the first two labs of each week.
- 2. A healthy dose of curiosity, enthusiasm, and interest in learning.
- 3. A USB flash drive (also known as pen or thumb drive).
- 4. Calculator. A basic version with a square and square root function is sufficient. Cost is under \$20.
- 5. Your notes and course handouts from previous weeks.

Teaching Assistants					
Olivia Bustamante	Chris Cascio	Cameron McCabe	Caitlin Phillips	Laura Shelley	
olivia.d.bustamante@gmail.com	cascio@rohan.sdsu.edu	cameron.mccabe@gmail.com	caitlin@mophilly.com	lauraeshelley@gmail.com	
M 3-4	WF 9-10	MW 3-4	TTH 2-3	F 9-11	
F 8-9					

Course Materials

Textbook:

Moore, D.S. (2010) (5th edition). The basic practice of statistics. New York, NY: Freeman.

Course Website on Blackboard: Class lectures will not be available on the web. Information about TAs office hours, handouts, assignments, and datasets will be posted.

Course Work

Lab Quiz:

At the start of each lab there will be a short 5 minute quiz (with books and notes closed). These will be geared towards testing your ability to apply what you have learned in the previous lab to a given research scenario. The Monday and Wednesday quizzes will count towards your grade (see below). The Friday quizzes will count as extra credit up to a max of 2% of your total grade.

Weekly Lab Topics:

Each week, the TA briefly introduces the topic of the week, reviews basic concepts, illustrates how to use SPSS for investigating a particular problem, and introduces a research project.

Weekly Projects:

During the remaining time, students work on the project assignment and prepare a report to be turned in for feedback and grading.

Deadlines

All regular project assignments are due at **the <u>end</u> of your Friday class period** the week you received the assignment. The final project assignment is due by **May 6 at the <u>beginning</u> of your class period**

Late Assignments

No late assignments will be accepted unless...

- (a) ... you talked to your TA prior to the deadline and received permission to hand in your assignment late, or
- (b) ...there was an unpredictable and serious emergency. Provide your TA with a copy of your doctor's note or a police report.

Course Grade Break Down

Regular Projects:	10	50%
Final Project:	1	23%
Comprehensive Exam:	1	21%
Lab Quiz	19	6%

Course Grades

Your **weighted average** percentage across all the course assignments will be used to determine your letter grade in each course. One regular project with the lowest point will be dropped.

Note that the following letter grade ranges are provided as guidelines only.

A = 90% or above; B = 80 - 89.9%; C = 70 - 79.9%; D =
$$60 - 69.9\%$$

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Disclaimer: Grading guidelines are tentative and preliminary. Grading guidelines may be changed (\pm 3%) at any time to reflect changes in assignments, materials covered in class, and grading standards.

A grade of "U" indicates that you enrolled in a course, did not withdraw from the course, but failed to complete course requirements. For purposes of GPA computation, this grade is equivalent to an " \mathbf{F} ". If you attend a portion of a course and then, after receiving a failing grade, stop attending without officially withdrawing, you will receive a final grade of "F" rather than "U".

A grade of "I" for "incomplete authorized" is only given when a minor portion of required coursework has not been completed and evaluated in the prescribed time period due to unforeseen, but fully justified, reasons. It is your responsibility to bring pertinent information to the instructor and to reach an agreement on the means by which the remaining course requirements will be satisfied. An incomplete shall not be assigned when the only way you could make up the work would be to attend a major portion of the class when it is offered next.

Students with Special Needs

Any participant in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the TA personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the student's educational progress.

Missing Class

Missing class does not excuse a student from handing in a project report on time. Students must contact their TA prior to a deadline and have a valid excuse and documentation to receive an extension of a project deadline. Project reports handed in after the deadline without the TA's permission will receive 0 points.

Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious form of unethical behavior and will not be tolerated.

All prelabs, project reports, and exams must reflect a student's <u>own</u> and <u>independent</u> thinking and writing. That is, you may not copy descriptions, explanations, printouts, or graphs from other students or tutors.

As soon as a TA observes or suspects an instance of academic dishonesty, s/he will inform Prof. Matt who will immediately initiate a preliminary investigation.

If the preliminary investigation indicates academic dishonesty, SDSU's <u>Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities</u> (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/index.html) will be informed and an <u>Academic Dishonesty Incidence Report</u> will be filed.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the student may be expelled, suspended, or placed on probation. In addition, the student will receive an F (0 points) for the assignment. Two instances will lead to an immediate course grade of F.

You can view a flowchart of the judicial process here: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/discipline2.html

If you have any questions about academic dishonesty or this policy, please ask your TA.

Schedule

Dates	Topics	
	Brush Up on Research Methods	
	(Ch. 4)	
1/19 – 2/11		
	Descriptive Statistics and Graphing	
Note: No Lab 1/21	(Ch. 1 and 2)	
Last Day to drop classes 2/1		
	Brush Up on the Logic of Inferential Statistics	
	(Ch. 3)	
2/14 – 3/11	(Ch. 11)	
	(Ch. 14)	
	<u>One-sample t-tests</u>	
	(Ch. 17)	
	Two-sample t-tests	
	(Ch. 18)	
3/14 - 4/8	ANOVA	
	(Ch. 24)	
Note: No Lab 3/28 – 4/1		
4/11 & 4/13 (MW)	Comprehensive Exam	
4/12 & 4/14 (TTH)		
4/18 - 5/6	Final Project	
	Due May 6, at beginning of your class period	