PSPA 501
Scope and Dynamics of Public Administration
Spring, 2008
DuSable 252

Class Hours: Wednesday, 6:30-9:10
Professor: Heidi Koenig
Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30 (252 DuSable) ;
Wednesday 2:30-3:30,
Thursday, 11:30-1:00
or by appointment.
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Meier, Kenneth and Brudney, Jeffrey L. (2006) *Applied Statistics for Public Administration*, 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Morgan, George, Leech, Nancy L., Gloeckner, Gene W., Barrett, Karen C. (2007) *SPSS for Introductory Statistics: Use and Interpretation*. Mahwah, NJ:Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

SPSS statistical package

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is a basic course on the quantitative analysis of data commonly encountered in public administration or policy analysis settings. This is a "tool" course, designed to give you an ability to properly understand, interpret, and use statistical concepts such as probability and regression. These skills will be helpful in future understanding some of the material in other courses and will be invaluable in addressing the issues raised in your capstone project, Master's thesis, starred paper or beginning research on your dissertation.

PSPA 501 does *not* attempt to train you formally in statistics. The course is designed for graduate students with little or no background in mathematics beyond basic algebra. Thus, the course does not focus on derivations and proofs, but rather on understanding the uses and interpretations of statistics as tools for data analysis. A secondary objective of the course is to introduce you to the utility of microcomputer statistics packages. Thus, a major part of the course assignments require the use of the SPSS software package for statistical analysis.

You may use your home or office PC, the P.A. PC lab in the IASBO Building on campus, or the Political Science lab. The fee that you paid as part of registering for this course goes to support the Public Administration lab; it is the source of most of the funding to purchase new equipment

and software.

You should choose your SPSS package based, first on your PC system's conformance to the system requirements or recommendations for the different packages and , second, a decision about whether or not you'll use SPSS after this class. The "Career Starter" alternative is recommended, though Ph.D. students and serious software adopters may prefer the "Grad Pack."

Students should also have an inexpensive hand calculator with square root, exponent, factorial and $\log_{10}$ If you need to buy a calculator, consider buying an inexpensive one with memory accumulation and the capability to calculate a mean and standard deviation.

It is better to ask questions during class than to wonder about the answers when you see the exam. Learning statistics is quite often a "lightbulb" experience – you think you don't understand how individual concepts are related and then WOW! they tie together. To get to the WOW! part, though, you have to understand the individual elements. Therefore, there will be homework assigned and extra problems suggested.

Homework is due at the beginning of the class session. Statistics is about logic, using mathematics to apply the logic in a particular case. There really isn't need for math anxiety in this class. If you feel that the math is beyond you, I will find a review book at the level necessary to alleviate your concern.

I love statistics. I love teaching this course, learning new statistical methods, and understanding different uses for different types of statistical analyses. I don't expect that you will walk out of the room with my love for the topic. I do expect you will be competent to do statistics and interpret statistical results provided to you.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Homework	50
First Exam	40
Second Exam	40
Final examination	70
Total points	200

ATTENDANCE

Attendance will be taken in class. Tardiness is considered an absence. The instructor reserves the right to alter the grade of students based on class attendance and participation. I understand that you are adults, and have responsibilities which arise outside of class. You must determine your own priorities.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK	TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
Jan. 16	1. Introduction to the course	
Jan. 23	2. Basics Measurement, SPSS transformation	M&B: ch. 1,2 M: ch. 1,2,5
Jan. 30	3. Frequencies, tables, dispersion	M&B: ch. 4,5,6 M: ch. 3,4
Feb. 6	4. Probability	M&B: ch. 7,8
Feb. 13	5. Probability continued	M&B: ch. 9,10
Feb. 20	6. First exam	
Feb. 27	7. Hypothesis testing, sampling	M&B: ch. 11,12 M: ch. 5,9
Mar. 5	8. Difference of means (t, F)	M&B: ch. 13,14
Mar. 12	9. Spring break	
Mar. 19	10. Contingency tables	M&B: ch. 15,16,17 M: ch. 7
Mar. 26	11.	
Apr. 2	12. Bivariate Regression	M&B: ch. 18,19 M: ch. 8
Apr. 9	13. Second exam Multiple Regression (lecture notes)	
Apr. 16	14. Multiple Regression, Time Series	M&B: ch. 20,21
Apr. 23	15. Performance Measurement, Review	M&B: ch. 24
May 7	Final exam	

FINAL EXAMINATION
THURSDAY, MAY 11TH 12:00 - 1:50 pm

M&B: ch. 4,5,6