1. Course Description (UCD Course Catalog)

This course serves as an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics and the computer analysis of criminology and criminal justice data. Course content includes basic procedures of hypothesis testing, correlation and regression analysis and the analysis of continuous and binary dependent variables. Emphasis is placed on the examination of research problems and issues in the field of criminology and criminal justice. This is primarily a lecture course, with some in-class and out of class lab work.

2. Course Pre-requisite

CRJU 3100 Criminal Justice Research Methods

3. Course Objectives

After completing this course students should be able to: (1) appropriately (meaningfully) describe a variable distribution using measures of central tendency and dispersion; (2) distinguish between descriptive and inferential statistics (including proper notation); (3) calculate a relationship (strength, existence, direction) between two variables; (4) explain the logic behind hypotheses testing; (5) describe the need for multivariate analysis and potential problems associated with multivariate procedures; and, (6) use the statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS [now PASW]) to conduct very basic statistical analyses.

4. Required Text


5. Other Required Equipment & Software

Basic Calculator

Copy of SPSS [PASW] Student Version 16, for Microsoft Windows XP or Vista. This version of SPSS is bundled with your text and expires 13 months after installation. However, any version copy of SPSS will work for course
assignments. The Computing Center Desk in the Auraria Bookstore also sells a student only version of SPSS for PCs and Macs that is relatively inexpensive. If you cannot purchase SPSS, you can also use the “statistics lab” located on the 5th Floor of the Lawrence Street Center in Suite 500v. That lab has a copy of SPSS [PASW] installed on every computer, but space is also very limited so you should anticipate waiting for a computer. Undergraduate students can typically only access the lab during normal business hours (i.e., 8am to 5pm weekdays) so you must plan ahead when working to complete homework assignments.

6. Class Attendance

Students who attend lecture are much more likely to be successful in this course. Therefore, class attendance is strongly encouraged. Students who miss class lecture are responsible for learning, on their own, the material they missed. The professor and/or teaching assistant will not conduct private lectures. Students are responsible for any announcements made in class, including changes in exam dates, reading assignments, lectures topics, and/or changes to this syllabus. The professor will update any changes to this syllabus on Blackboard. Students who miss class will be responsible for checking the Blackboard syllabus so that they are aware of any changes in exam dates, homework assignments, reading assignments, and lecture topics.

7. Course Grading

Course grading is based on the total number of points that the student receives on exams and assignments. There are three exams and four assignments in this course. As noted in the “Breakdown of Course Points” below, students can earn a total of 400 points in this course. Please note that I do not curve (add or subtract points to create a normal distribution of scores) or adjust grades in any fashion. Instead, I simply recode the total number of points a student earns at during the semester into a letter grade based on the “Grading Scale” provided below. For example, based on the “Grading Scale” a student with 348 points will earn a “B+” and a student with 371 points will earn an “A-.” There are no exceptions to this rule. What follows is a breakdown of total possible points for the semester based on exams and assignments. Your scores will be posted on Blackboard so that you can check your grade. If you have any questions about a score on an exam or an assignment, you must notify me within two weeks of posting that score on Blackboard. I will not discuss an assigned score after two weeks have elapsed.

Breakdown of Course Points

| Exam 1 | 100 points |
| Exam 2 | 100 points |
| Exam 3 | 100 points |
| Assignment 1 | 25 points |
| Assignment 2 | 25 points |
| Assignment 3 | 25 points |
| Assignment 4 | 25 points |
| **Total Possible Points** | **400 points** |
Grading Scale

372 to 400  A
360 to 371  A-
348 to 359  B+
332 to 347  B
320 to 331  B-
308 to 319  C+
292 to 307  C
280 to 291  C-
268 to 279  D+
252 to 267  D
240 to 251  D-
000 to 239  F

7a. Exams (100 points for each exam, 300 points total)

There will be three in-class exams (noted on the “Course Schedule” as “Exam 1,” “Exam 2,” and “Exam 3”). Each exam is worth 100 points (300 points total). Each exam will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions. Exams two and three are cumulative. Students cannot use notes or books on exams but can use a basic calculator. Phone calculators and other media devises cannot be used during exams.

Make-up examinations are unfair to other students. If you miss an exam because of an unanticipated or emergency excused absence and are unable to contact the professor prior to the exam, then you must provide written verification and document the extenuating circumstances that caused you miss the exam as noted in the “Student Attendance and Absences” memo. If you anticipate missing an exam then you must notify the professor at least 3 days in advance of the exam so that alternative arrangements can be made. Voice messages and email to the professor are acceptable, but written verification must be eventually submitted. The student and professor must agree to any alternative exam arrangements in writing. Students who miss an exam without contacting the professor or teaching assistant first will receive “0” points on that exam.

After exams are graded the professor will discuss the exam in class. Exam questions will not be returned to students. However, students can obtain a copy of their answers to the questions and can review exam questions and their answers to those questions with the teaching assistant and/or professor.

7b. Assignments (25 points for each assignment, 100 points total)

There will be four SPSS [PASW] assignments during the semester (noted on the “Course Schedule” as “Assignment 1,” “Assignment 2,” “Assignment 3,” and “Assignment 4.”) Each assignment is worth 25 points (100 points total). More information about the assignments (including rules for completing and submitting assignments) will be distributed over the course of the semester. Assignment instructions will be distributed in-class and are not posted on Blackboard. Thus, you must be in class to receive assignment directions. Homework assignments are considered late if they are not handed in at the start of class (i.e., 9:30am) on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be accepted up to four days past the due date. However, five points will be deducted from the total score you receive on an assignment for each day it is late. If you are unable to turn in an assignment because of an emergency excused absence, you...
must notify the professor or teaching assistant as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements to submit the assignment can be made. The student and professor must agree to any alternative assignment arrangements in writing. The first late day starts at 9:35am (e.g., start of class) and runs until 9:30am the following day. When an assignment is five days late, the student will be assigned a score of “0” points on that assignment. You cannot email completed assignments to the professor or teaching assistant. All assignments must be typed. All graded assignments will be returned to students in class. Please keep all graded assignments until the end of the semester as proof that you have completed the assignment. Failure to produce a graded assignment when requested will result in a score of “0” points on that assignment.

8. Extra Credit

The professor will not assign extra credit to individual students. However, the professor reserves the right to hand out extra credit assignments to the entire class. You must be in class the day that extra credit is collected to receive extra credit points. The professor will not accept late extra credit assignments. There are no exceptions to this rule.

9. Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades will be assigned in accordance with University policy. I will only consider assigning an incomplete grade if a written request is made. That request must contain four pieces of information. First, the request must contain your current grade in the course. If you do not know your current grade you may obtain it on Blackboard (http://www.cudenver.edu/Academics/CUOnline). Second, the request must list the course requirements that you will not be able to complete. If you missed an exam or assignment and were assigned a score of “0,” that exam or assignment cannot be listed as incomplete. Third, the request must contain a statement indicating that you are unable to complete the course “due to circumstances beyond your control.” You do not need to go into detail about those circumstances. Fourth, the request must contain a statement informing me that you intend to complete the course prior to one year or by the end of the semester in which you graduate (whichever comes first). I will notify you of my decision concerning your request and specify in writing the requirements you must fulfill to complete the course. In this course and in accordance with University Policy an incomplete grade will only be assigned if your grade is a “C” or better at the time the request is made. Thus, you must have at least 70% of the available possible points in the course.

10. Students With Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations, modifications, and/or auxiliary aids in order to have equal access to the programs and services offered should contact the University of Colorado Denver Disability Resources and Services Office. UCD provides resources and services under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). To receive accommodations at the University of Colorado Denver, a student must notify the office of Disability Resources and Services Office and initiate the process for determining their eligibility for accommodations. The Disability Resources and Services Office is the designated office that maintains disability-related records, determines eligibility for academic accommodations, determines reasonable accommodations and develops plans for the provision of such accommodations for students attending the university.
11. Course Communication

I will notify you of changes in exam dates, policies, assignments, etc. set forth in this syllabus using Blackboard (CU Online). I will often post lecture materials, handouts, and grades on Blackboard so be sure to log in at least once per week. Email is the best way to reach me (paul.stretesky@ucdenver.edu). I check and reply to email once per day (weekends excluded). During the week (i.e., Monday to Friday) I will always try to reply to your inquiries within 24 hours. I do not read or reply to email on weekends.

12. Code of Conduct

As members of the University community, students are expected to uphold university standards, which include abiding by state civil and criminal laws and all University policies and standards of conduct. These standards assist in promoting a safe and welcoming community. The university strives to make the campus community a place of study, work and residence where people are treated, and treat one another, with respect and courtesy. The university views the student conduct process as a learning experience that can result in growth and personal understanding of one’s responsibilities and privileges within both the university community and the greater community. All students must follow these standards. Students who violate these standards will be subject to the actions described in the “University Policies” section in the Catalog for the University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus ([The Catalog] see http://catalog.ucdenver.edu/). It is your responsibility as a UC Denver student to read and understand the “University Policies” section of The Catalog.

13. Honor Code Violations

Students are expected to know, understand and comply with the ethical standards of the university (see “University Policies” on “Academic Dishonesty and Discipline Policies.”) In addition, students have an obligation to inform the appropriate official of any acts of academic dishonesty by other students of the university. Academic dishonesty is defined as a student’s use of unauthorized assistance with intent to deceive an instructor or other such person who may be assigned to evaluate the student’s work in meeting course and degree requirements. Whether through direct experience or information provided by a student, if a faculty member discovers an incident of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism or cheating; see catalog for list of infractions), s/he has the discretion of imposing grade penalties ranging from a point reduction on the assignment, to a grade of F for the assignment, to a grade of F for the course. All instances of Academic dishonesty will be reported to the Associate Dean as soon as they occur, and whether or not any action by SPA administration is required.
14. Course Schedule (subject to change)

January 19: Samples, Statistics, Populations, and Parameters

Class Reading: Chapter 1 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

January 24: Variables and Measurement

Class Reading: Chapter 2 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

January 26: Variables and Measurement

Class Reading: Chapter 2 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

January 31: Histograms and Bar Charts

Class Reading: Chapter 3 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

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Assignment 1: Due January 31 at 9:30 am.

February 2: Histograms and Bar Charts

Class Reading: Chapter 3 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

February 7: Measures of Central Tendency

Class Reading: Chapter 4 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

February 9: Measures of Central Tendency

Class Reading: Chapter 4 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

February 14: Measures of Dispersion

Class Reading: Chapter 5 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

February 16: Measures of Dispersion

Class Reading: Chapter 5 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

Review for exam 1

February 21: Exam

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Exam 1: 50 Multiple Choice Questions; February 21; 9:30am to 10:45am

February 23: Distributional Forms

Class Reading: Chapter 6 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

February 28: Distributional Forms

Class Reading: Chapter 6 in Walker & Maddan (2009)
--- Assignment 2: Due February 28 at 9:30 am.

March 2: Normal Distribution and Z-Scores
   Class Reading: Chapter 6 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

March 7: Normal Distribution and Z-Scores
   Class Reading: Chapter 6 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

March 9: Bivariate Statistics—Nominal
   Class Reading: Chapters 7 & 9 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

March 14: Bivariate Statistics—Ordinal
   Class Reading: Chapters 9 & 10 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

March 16: Bivariate Statistics—Interval/Ratio
   Class Reading: Chapters 9 & 10 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

March 21: Bivariate Statistics—Interval/Ratio
   Class Reading: Chapters 9 & 10 in Walker & Maddan (2009)
   Review for exam 2

March 23: Exam
   --- Exam 2: 50 Multiple Choice Questions; Cumulative; March 21; 9:30am to 10:45am

March 28: Spring Break

March 30: Spring Break

April 4: Inferential Statistics
   Class Reading: Chapters 15 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

April 6: Chi Square (MOE)
   Class Reading: Chapters 8 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

--- Assignment 3: Due April 6 at 9:30 am.

April 11: Chi Square (MOE)
   Class Reading: Chapters 8 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

April 13: Pearson’s r (MOE)
   Class Reading: None
April 18: One Sample, Tests and CI
   Class Reading: Chapters 15, 16 & 17 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

April 20: One Sample, Tests and CI
   Class Reading: Chapter 15, 16 & 17 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

April 25: Two Sample, Tests and CI
   Class Reading: Chapter 15, 16 & 17 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

April 27: Two Sample, Tests and CI (homework 4 due)
   Class Reading: Chapter 15, 16 & 17 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

--- Assignment 4: Due April 27 at 9:30 am.

May 2: Reading Articles and Multivariate
   Class Reading: Chapters 11 & 12 in Walker & Maddan (2009)

May 4: Reading Articles and Multivariate
   Class Reading: Chapter 11 & 12 in Walker & Maddan (2009)
   Review for exam 3

May 8-13: Exam

--- Exam 3: 50 multiple choice questions; Cumulative; Monday, May 13, 9:30am to 10:45am in PLAZA M203