

# SOCI 328: SOCIAL STATISTICS I

**Time: 3:30-5 PM on Tuesday & Thursday**

**Location: LASR-102**

Instructor  
Dr. Qiang Fu

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Teaching Assistant  
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Office/lab location: TBA

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## 1. Class description:

*It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment.*

--Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss (Germany, 1777-1855)

This class provides a different view of our society in the lens of statistics. Social statistics is a key tool for sociologists to explore the world and is widely used in economic, demographic and political analyses as well. This class will address classic and fundamental topics of statistics and help students understand how statistics is relevant to everyday life.

## 2. Prerequisite

SOCI 100 or its equivalent is a prerequisite for this course. Note that UBC students cannot receive credit for any two of the following introductory statistics courses: STAT 200, 203, BIOL 300, COMM 312, 291, ECON 325, EPSE 482, 483, FRST 231, GEOG 374, KIN 371, POLI 380, PSYC 218, 366, SOCI 328.

## 3. Textbook.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava, and Anna Leon-Guerrero. *Social statistics for a diverse society (7<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Sage Publications, 2015. **(recommended)**

Urdan, Timothy C. *Statistics in plain English*. Routledge, 2010.

Garner, Roberta. *The joy of stats: A short guide to introductory statistics in the social sciences*. University of Toronto Press, 2010.

Freedman, D., R. Pisani, and R. Purves. *Statistics* Norton and Company, Inc., (1978, 1991, 1998, 2007)

Acock, A.C. *A gentle introduction to Stata*. Stata Press, (2008, 2014)

#### 4. Grading policy and assignment

The grading policy of this class is as follows:

1. Attendance and class participation (10%)
2. Assignments (3 total) (30%)
3. In-class test 1 (20%)
4. In-class test 2 (20%)
5. In-class test 3 (20%)

Note: Final grades may be adjusted if the average final grade for the course is inordinately high or low.

Detailed guidelines:

**Class attendance** is mandatory and there will be roll calls. If you miss class due to illness, you must inform the instructor **in advance** and later provide a doctor's note. Excessive absences will not be excused. **Please bear in mind that because of the cumulative nature of the course it is very difficult for you to catch up with others even if you miss one or two classes.** A list of religious holidays involving fasting, abstention from work or study or participation in religious activities is available on the UBC website. Students should let the instructor know in advance (in the first week of the course) if they will require accommodation on these grounds.

It may not be the case that everyone is equally comfortable engaging in discussion, but please remember that you are encouraged to raise questions and express ideas in class. Students who volunteer to solve in-class questions may get bonus points.

**In-class exams:** There will be three in-class exams. The exams will be comprised primarily of multiple choice and short answer questions. You **SHOULD** bring one calculator for the exams but you are not allowed to use class notes, book chapters, other electronic devices, or journal articles during the tests. Necessary equations will be provided in the exams.

**5. Late Policy:** Late written assignments will be penalized 1 overall point for every 12 hours after the due time. Answers for exams must be submitted in class and late submission will not be accepted after class. Exceptions will only be made when you produce a letter from Arts Academic Advising.

**6. Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will NOT be tolerated and students engaging in such activities will be reported to the Academic Integrity Program.

Please consult this website if you are not sure whether your behaviors will be considered as plagiarism:

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/guide-to-academic-integrity/>

**7. Grade Appeals:** Students should retain all copies of assignments and marked work, both for your own records and in the event that you wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Please understand that the grading policy applies to all students and I will not make an exception for any single student. Please also bear in mind that a re-evaluation of your work can result in a higher/lower grade.

**8. Communication** The teaching assistant is available for addressing all your questions related to this class. If you would like to have a conversation with the instructor, you could contact me in person before/after class or set up an appointment by email: [fu.qiangsoc@gmail.com](mailto:fu.qiangsoc@gmail.com) .

**9. Software and Data**

Analyzing data using a statistical package, such as STATA, SPSS, R, or SAS, should be the central part of learning social statistics. So, get your hands dirty! This class will be based on STATA. Data and an introductory class will be given by the instructor.

**10. Class topics**

*SSDS: Social Statistics for a Diverse Society*

*SPE: Statistics in Plain English*

Topic 1 The what and the why of statistics

SSDS Chapter 1

(or SPE Chapter 1)

Topic 2 Descriptive statistics

SSDS Chapter 2 and 3

(or SPE Chapter 1)

Topic 3 Measures of central tendency

SSDS Chapter 4

(or SPE Chapter 2)

Topic 4 Measures of variability

SSDS Chapter 5

(or SPE Chapter 3)

Topic 5 The normal distribution

SSDS Chapter 6

(or SPE Chapter 4 and Chapter 5)

Topic 6 Sampling and sampling distribution

SSDS Chapter 7

(or SPE Chapter 6)

Topic 7 Estimation

SSDS Chapter 8  
(or SPE Chapter 6 and Chapter 7)

Topic 8 Testing hypotheses  
SSDS Chapter 9  
(or SPE Chapter 7 and Chapter 9)

Topic 9 Bivariate associations  
SSDS Chapter 10 and Chapter 11  
(or SPE Chapter 8 and Chapter 14)

Topic 10 Regression and correlation  
SSDS Chapter 11 and Chapter 13  
(or SPE Chapter 10 and Chapter 13)

Topic 11 Multivariate analysis  
SSDS Chapter 13  
(or SPE Chapter 13)