Psychology 385 - Statistics with Computer Lab - Sections A & B
Spring 2012
Dr. John P. Galla

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Sec A Lecture: M 08-08:50AM and M/W/F 09-09:50AM
Room: LC 322A

Sec B Lecture: W 08-08:50AM and M/W/F 10-10:50AM,
Room: LC 322A

Office: My office is in Kapelski Learning Center, room 137B.

Office Hours: My office hours for spring 2012 are **M 1-3PM, T 8-8:50AM, W 1-1:50PM and F 8-8:50AM.**

Phone: You may call me at (610) 499-4371. If I am not in my office, leave a voice message that includes your name, number where I can reach you, the times I can reach you, and the reason for your call. Please note: **I do not discuss grades over the telephone.**

Email: You may also email me at **jpgalla@mail.widener.edu**. However, due to the burden of unsolicited email, and of destructive viruses carried in email, I will only respond to your email if your name, and the number and section of your course appear in the subject line (e.g., *Your Name, Psy 385, Section A*). Email without this information will be erased without being opened. Please note: **I do not discuss grades via email.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Psychology 385 covers elementary statistics applied to the behavioral and social sciences. The computer laboratory will introduce you to data handling, statistics, and graphing with the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

In this course you will become acquainted with the many ways in which empirical information is obtained and analyzed. Basically, there are two things to learn about applied statistics:

- *How* to use particular statistical procedures and
- *When* to use them.

We begin the course by presenting necessary terminology and a review of basic mathematical constructs such as the mean, median, mode, variance, and standard deviation (descriptive techniques). We then proceed to more sophisticated constructs such as the t-distribution and the analysis of variance (inferential techniques).

The textbook provides the computational logic and underlying mathematical assumptions for the statistical procedures covered in this course. SPSS provides the computational methods for data analysis and evaluation of these statistical procedures.

Although there is a class period designated as the “lab”, in fact lecture and lab are fully integrated and we will routinely work with SPSS during the “lecture” periods.

Do not take this course unless you plan to work hard.

COURSE POLICIES AND MATERIALS (note: All course policies are consistent with the University Academic Regulations)

Prerequisites*:* You must have successfully completed your general education math requirement with a grade of C or better before you can take this course. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Textbook, flash drive, calculator, prepared notes*:* Please purchase the textbook, USB flash drive and calculator and *bring them to all classes*. I will provide outline notes and models for statistical procedures in your course shared files on Campus Cruiser.

Text and companion web site:
Gravetter & Wallnau (2011). ***Essentials of Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences, 7th edition***, Wadsworth: Belmont, California. ISBN 049581220X, **Companion Web Site:** Companion Study Site

Flash drive: Purchase one USB flash drive.

Calculator: Purchase an inexpensive calculator with square root key. Note: **cell phone calculators are not allowed.**

Prepared notes: On occasion I make prepared notes available by placing them in *shared files.* They reflect the material covered in class, including material on SPSS

Attendance: You are allowed eight absences so that you are not penalized for the occasional "doctor's appointment" or "away game." However, I will reduce your grade by 5 percentage points for each absence beyond eight. If you miss an exam you will not be able to make it up until the last day of the semester. The format for make-up exams will be different from the format of the missed exam. If you miss more than one exam you should plan to drop the course and retake it in a later semester. Remember that your designated lab period begins at 8 a.m. If you have problems waking up for an 8 a.m. class, or if your commute will preclude you getting to class on time, do not take this class.

Punctuality: Class begins at the beginning of the period. I expect you to be on time for class. If you arrive after class has started please enter the classroom in an unobtrusive manner and find the nearest available seat. I will reduce your grade by 5 percentage points for each late arrival beyond three (i.e., if you are habitually late). If you disrupt class in any way when entering late, I will ask the registrar to remove you from class permanently.

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, IPods/IPads, laptop computers, Bluetooth or wireless devices, etc.) must be turned *off* during the class period. The campus alert system is installed on the classroom computers in case there is a campus emergency. I will deduct 5 percentage points from your final grade for *any* violation of this policy. After 2 violations I will request that the registrar remove you from class permanently. Please note that violation of this policy for any reason during an exam will be considered evidence of cheating and you will be dropped from the course with an F for academic fraud. SORRY– NO EXCEPTIONS!

Recording: Recording lectures is generally prohibited. A student with special needs may be allowed to record lectures if **1)** official documentation regarding the special need is presented and **2)** a standard contract is signed regarding the use and disposition of the recorded lectures.

Cheating: I begin with the assumption that you are honest and honorable. My faith in your integrity notwithstanding, I adhere *strictly* to the cheating policy that appears in the University Academic Regulations of the 2011-2012 Widener University Catalog. As mentioned above, the use of an electronic device (e.g., cell phone) during an exam will be considered evidence of cheating and you will be dropped from the course with an F for academic fraud.

Homework: Reading, problem, and lab assignments are to be done before coming to class. Assignments that are to be turned in are due on their specified due date. Even if you are absent on the due date, the assignment is still due. Be prepared to discuss all assignments in class. I recommend you keep all written homework in a special notebook and save all computer assignments on your flash drive. Please bring completed assignments with you when you meet with me.

Exams: There will be 4 exams and an optional final (for those who qualify). Exams will be based on information from lecture and lab. The four exams will be averaged together to arrive at your final grade (i.e., each regular exam is worth 25% of the final grade). I have tentatively scheduled exams for Friday, February 3; Friday, March 2; Wednesday, April 4; and Friday, April 20. If you miss an exam on a scheduled exam date, you will have to take a make-up exam. All make-up exams will be given on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 (the last day of classes). Anyone taking an exam in the Academic Support Services office must provide proper documentation at least 2 weeks prior to the exam.

If after completing all 4 exams your average is not less than 55 and not more than 59, you may, at your option, take a cumulative final. If you earn at least 70 points (out of 100) on the cumulative final, you will receive a D for the course. If you get below a 60 on an exam I require that you meet with me and that you make an appointment to meet with the statistics tutor assigned to this course. Not meeting with me under these circumstances will be considered a class absence.

Grades: Letter grades will be assigned as indicated in the table below. Please understand what this table means. If your final average is a minimum of 93 you earn an A, below 93 you do not earn an A. If your average is 80 you earn a B-, below 80 you do not earn a B-, and so forth. I do not round up to the next highest grade.

A	=	93% or above
A-	=	from 90 to anything below 93
B+	=	87-below 90
B	=	83-below 87
B-	=	80-below 83
C+	=	77-below 80
C	=	73-below 77
C-	=	70-below 73
D+	=	67-below 70
D	=	60-below 67
F	=	Below 60%

Psychology 385 - Course Outline, Spring 2012 Semester

Dates	**Topic**
M 1/9 through f2/3* *Note: No class on M 1/16 but Monday's class will instead be on Tuesday 1/17.	**For Monday:** Purchase text, USB flash drive, and a calculator. **For the Semester:** Do all odd numbered exercises at end of each chapter in G & W. Complete all exercises containing raw data using SPSS. G&W: Chapters 1 - 4; Appendix D. We will work at a brisk pace through chapter 1-4, as the material involves basic math and descriptive techniques (e.g., mean, median, mode, variance, standard deviation). Appendix D is an overview of SPSS. I will supplement the information in appendix D with notes placed in shared files.
F 2/3	**Exam 1 - G&W: Chapters 1 – 4. Questions will involve using SPSS.**
M 2/6 through W 2/29	G&W: Chapters 5 - 8
F 3/2	**Exam 2** - **G&W: Chapters 5 – 8. Questions will involve using SPSS.**
M 3/5 though F3/9	No classes – Mid-term Break
M 3/12 through F 4/2	G&W: Chapter 9-11
W 4/4	**Exam 3 - G&W: Chapters 9 -11. Questions will involve using SPSS.**
F 4/6	No Class – Spring Holiday
M 4/9 through W 4/18	G&W: Chapters13,15 and 16
F 4/20	**Exam 4** - **G&W: Chapters 13, 15 and 16. Questions will involve using SPSS.**
M 4/23 through 4/25	**Last week of classes. Make up days for any missed exams.**