OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to (1) strengthen your skills as a *consumer* of the research literature, (2) continue your development as a *critical reviewer* of research, and (3) give you an opportunity to become a *contributor* of new knowledge by introducing you to quantitative data analysis and statistics.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Class time will include lectures, small group discussions and “hands-on” data analysis experiences with other students in small groups. The course includes 7 hours of class meetings each week, readings, and two data analysis assignments.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend all classes, read the required book chapters and articles, participate in small group discussions and in-class data analysis projects, and complete the assignments according to the course schedule.

There will be two data analysis assignments. The first will be handed out in class on June 11th and completed during that class period. The assignment will require that each student conduct a series of analyses using SPSS and answer a set of questions based on the results. This paper will count for 30% of the course grade and will be handed out and completed on June 11th.

The second data assignment will be a five to seven page journal article. Each student will develop a specific research question or hypothesis based on the class data set, describe and conduct a series of preliminary analyses to generate a multiple regression model that will test the research question or hypothesis, run the regression model, describe the findings and present them in a series of tables, and discuss the implications of the results. This paper will count for 50% of the course grade and will be due on June 25th.

In addition to the two assignments, students will be graded on class participation which will account for 20% of the course grade. Class participation will include both engaging in the class discussions and completing the weekly in-class worksheet that will correspond to the topics discussed in each class.

READINGS

Required:

- Journal articles available on Blackboard

Recommended:

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<th>Class/Date</th>
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| (1) 5/21   | Introduction: review syllabus  
           | SPSS: Data sets and data entry  
           | Examining Distributions  
           | Developing Hypotheses | Norusis Chps 1-4 |
| (2) 5/26   | Introduce the GSS data set  
           | Transforming variables  
           | Sampling | Norusis Appendix B |
| (3) 5/28   | Measures of Central Tendency and Variation  
           | The Normal Distribution  
           | Central Limit Theorem  
           | Hypothesis Testing  
           | One-Sample t-test  
           | Overview of Statistical Tests | Norusis Chps 5, 11, 12 |
| (4) 6/2    | Two sample t-test  
           | Introduction  
           | In-class analysis  
           | Article review | Norusis Chp 14 |
| (5) 6/4    | Analysis of Variance  
           | Introduction  
           | In-class analysis  
           | Article review | Norusis Chp 15 |
| (6) 6/9    | Review + Prep for Assignment #1 |          | Assignment #1 |
| (7) 6/11   | Complete Assignment #1 |          | Assignment #1 |
| (8) 6/16   | Correlation, Simple and Multiple Regression:  
           | Introduction  
           | In-class analysis | Norusis Chps 20, 21, 23 |
| (9) 6/18   | Simple and Multiple Regression:  
           | Rohe & Basolo (1997)  
           | Blake (2001)  
           | Kaplan (2001)  
<pre><code>       | Handout Assignment #2 |
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<th>Class/Date</th>
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<td>(10) 6/23</td>
<td>Work on Assignment #2</td>
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**LIST OF ARTICLES**


