

Instructor: Don W. Edgar, Associate Professor
Agricultural and Extension Education Department, University of Arkansas
202 Agricultural Building; Fayetteville, AR 72701-1201
Voice (479) 575-2037; Fax (479) 575-2610; E-mail dedgar@uark.edu

Required text(s): Spatz, C. (2015). *Exploring statistics: Tales of distributions* (11th ed).
Arkansas, Outcrop Publishers.
ISBN# 978-0-9963392-1-6 hardcover retail: \$44
978-0-9963392-0-9 e-book retail: \$22

References(s): Ary, D. Jacobs, L.C., & Razavieh, A., Sorensen, C. (2006). *Introduction to research in education* (7th ed.). California: Thomson Wadsworth.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed). Washington, DC: Author.

Presenting Your Findings: A practical guide for creating tables (2004).
Publication manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed).
Washington, DC: Nicol and Pexman.

Catalog Description: Development of competencies in analyzing, interpreting and reporting results of social science data in agriculture. Students will select appropriate analysis techniques and procedures for various problems, and interpret and report the results of statistical analyses in narrative, graphic and tabular formats.

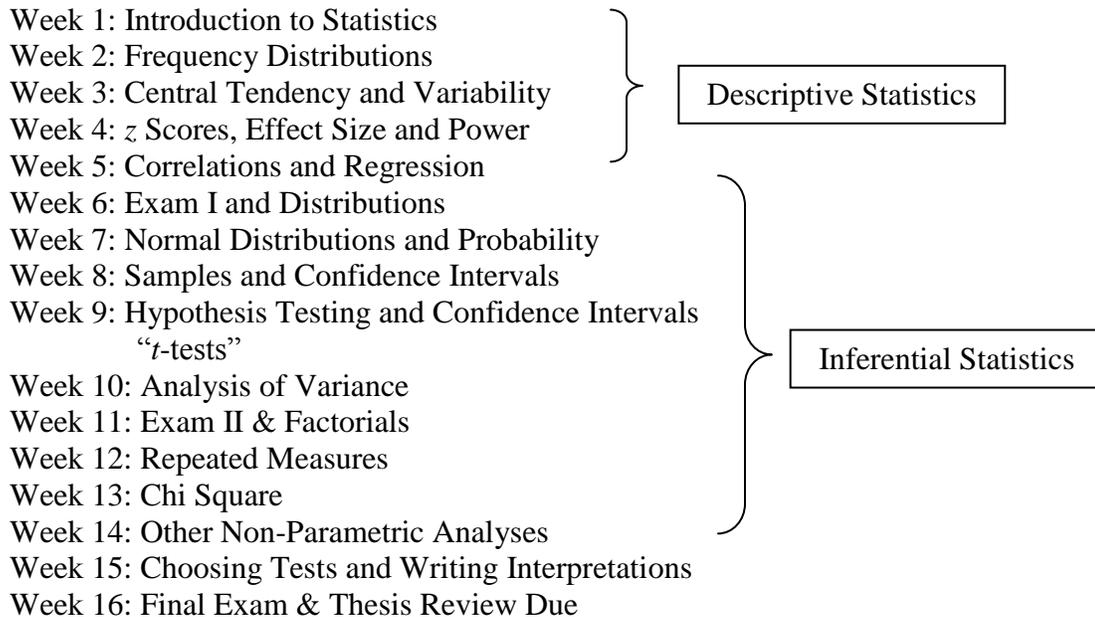
Course Objectives: This course is designed to familiarize students with important concepts and abilities necessary to select, analyze, conduct and interpret social science based analytics. Specific objectives include the following:

1. Select appropriate analysis techniques and procedures for various social science research;
2. Conduct appropriate analysis using statistical software;
3. Interpret the results of statistical analyses in order to meet specific research objectives;
4. Effectively communicate the results of statistical analyses in the form of text, tables, and figures; and
5. Effectively discuss the findings, implications and recommendations arising from research efforts.

Required Technology:

Computer with MS Excel capabilities
SAS 9.2 or higher (can be purchased through University of Arkansas DBCAFLS or another technology venue).

Topical Outline / Activity Schedule:



**This schedule is tentative and subject to change as circumstances dictate. Reading refers to chapters in course text.*

Grading:

1. Grades in AGED 5473 will be determined based on the following activities:

- *Homework and in-class assignments 60%
- *Exams, Projects 40%

- A. Data/Research assignments (40%) - These assignments involve doing data analysis computations, converting the results of statistical analyses into written results (text, tables and figures) and/or conclusions, implications and recommendations sections appropriate for a thesis, dissertation, or journal article. Assignments will conform to APA and/or graduate school style and format requirements.
- B. Article review and discussion (10%) - These assignments involve selecting an appropriate journal article, preparing a written critique of the article, and leading a group discussion (15 – 20 minutes) about the article. Each student will be responsible for writing one article review and leading the discussion on that article (week 10-15). Articles must be pre-approved by the instructor and

distributed to class members at least one week prior to the scheduled discussion. A suggested format for article reviews will be distributed and discussed in class.

- C. Thesis review (10%) - This assignment involves conducting a thorough review of a completed thesis in an area of interest and producing a written critique of the thesis. The critique should focus on methodology, data analysis findings and conclusions in addition the reviewer should focus on logical ordering and adherence to APA format and style requirements.
- D. Exams – Two exams (20%) and a comprehensive final exam (20%) will be administered.
2. The following grading scale will be used in AGED 5473:

A = 90% and greater

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = < 60%

3. Students are expected to be diligent in their studies and regular in their class attendance. Students have the responsibility of making arrangements satisfactory to the instructor regarding all cases of being tardy or absent. Policies of making up work missed as a result of being tardy or absent are at the discretion of the instructor.
4. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of regularly scheduled classes for the term. Incomplete grades will only be given in accordance with University policy.
5. Appropriate behavior is expected of all participants. Inappropriate and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in removal from the class and/or disciplinary action, per the student handbook.

Participation: Class participation will occur between and among students and the instructor through a variety of methods during the course including lectures, assignments, and email. The amount and quality student contributions to these conversations' will be evaluated. Collectively, we benefit from everyone's contributions. Therefore, class attendance, discussion, and participation will be an integral part of this course.

Class Attendance: Please note that attendance is linked to the grading system in the form of unannounced quizzes. Students are encouraged to attend every class period. Unannounced quizzes will be administered frequently, possibly daily. If at all possible, please let you instructor know if you are going to be absent in advance. Quizzes and lab assignments may be made-up for absences outlined in the University Student Manual. See the official student rules for

clarification of excused absences. You are paying for the classes taken at the University of Arkansas. It is your choice to attend or not. I will not, however, be providing class notes and lectures unless the absence is excused. Students are responsible for obtaining missed lecture notes and other information, such as announcements and assignment due dates, from their colleagues in the course.

Examinations: Two examinations will be given addressing basic or “knowledge-level learning.” Questions will be drawn from the readings, web resources, and class discussions from each of the content areas presented. The exams will be timed.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted up to three week days after the original due date. Grades on late papers will be lowered by 10 percent for every weekday the assignment is late. Assignments not submitted within three weekdays will receive a zero. No late assignments will be received after the last day of class.

Americans with Disabilities Policy: The American Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal antidiscrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation. All services, programs, and activities at the University are accessible to students with disabilities. If you have a disability that interferes with your potential success in this course, please inform the instructor during the first week of class so special arrangements can be made. To receive special services, you must be registered with the Center for Students with Disabilities.

Academic Honesty: As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one’s own ideas, work, writing, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of that person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues. As a professional in any communications field plagiarism harms the profession as a whole.

Students are required to comply with all University policies regarding scholastic dishonesty and other issues outlined in the official student rules. Your work on individual assignments and exams must be your own work, but collaborative learning with peers is encouraged in group projects. Appropriate citations for sources used in written assignments are required. First time academic honesty offenders will receive a zero for the assignment/exam. Second time offenders will receive an F in this course.

Copyrights: Please note that all handouts and supplements used in this course are copyrighted. This includes all materials generated for this class, including but not limited to syllabi, exams, in-class materials, review sheets, and lecture outlines. Materials may be downloaded or photocopied for personal use only, and may not be given or sold to other individuals.

Emergency Procedures: Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for

specific emergencies such as severe weather, active shooter, or fire can be found at emergency.uark.edu.

Severe Weather (Tornado Warning):

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- Seek shelter in the basement or interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors

Violence / Active Shooter (CADD):

- **CALL-** 9-1-1
- **AVOID-** If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- **DENY-** Barricade the door with desk, chairs, bookcases or any items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it's safe.
- **DEFEND-** Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

Syllabus Content and Schedule Changes: The syllabus schedule and content may change at the discretion of the instructor. Such changes will be announced in class.