PSY281
DATA ANALYSIS IN PSYCHOLOGY
Spring, 2011
GMCS-428

Teaching Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TA:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Sections:</th>
<th>Office Hours:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Bustamante</td>
<td><a href="mailto:oliviabustamante@yahoo.com">oliviabustamante@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>1. MWF 9-9:50, 2. MW 4-4:50, F 10-10:50</td>
<td>Mon. 3-4, Fri. 12-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhwani Khotari</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dhwani.j.kothari@gmail.com">dhwani.j.kothari@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>2. MW 4-4:50, F 10-10:50, 4. MW 6-6:50, F 12-12:50</td>
<td>M,W. 5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Payne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Renee@ymail.com">Renee@ymail.com</a></td>
<td>1. MWF 9:9:50, 3. MW 5-5:50, F 11-11:50</td>
<td>Fri. 10-11, 12-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Yama</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mary.shannon.yama@gmail.com">Mary.shannon.yama@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>3. MW 5-5:50, 4. MW 6-6:50, F 12-12:50</td>
<td>M,W. 4-5</td>
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Course Objectives

This course will give you the opportunity to learn some very marketable skills for a wide range of professional careers, upper-division courses, and graduate school: conducting and interpreting basic statistical analyses using SPSS computer software. You will learn how to enter data, produce graphical displays, obtain descriptive statistics, conduct hypothesis tests, and -- most importantly -- make sense of and write about statistical analyses.

Computer Software for this Course

The software package used in this class is SPSS Statistics 19.0 for Macintosh computers running OS X. It is very similar to SPSS Statistics 17.0 for Windows and the skills you learn will translate to a non-Macintosh environment. The computer skills taught in this class will come in very handy in future classes (e.g., PSY301, PSY370, PSY410), many professional careers (e.g., business, psychology, education, counseling, research, teaching), and your private life (e.g., medical and psychological test, elections, opinion polls, financial planning).

Prerequisites

To earn credit for PSY281 toward your psychology major, you must have already gotten credit in a three-unit statistics course without a computer laboratory component. If this is not the case, let the TA know ASAP, because you cannot receive credit for PSY281.

If you are not a psychology major, you may not need to take PSY281. Check with your academic advisor.
What to Bring to the Computer Lab

1. Yourself! Attendance is mandatory for the first two labs of each week. Attendance is strictly enforced during the first week of classes. Students who do not attend each class meeting in the first week of the semester will be dropped from the course.

2. A healthy dose of curiosity, enthusiasm, and interest in learning.

3. A USB flash drive (also known as pen or thumb drive).

4. Calculator. A basic version with a square and square root function is sufficient. Cost is under $20.

5. Your notes and course handouts from previous weeks.

Textbook


Web Site

Course Website on Blackboard: Class lectures will be available on the Blackboard site, as will information about TAs, office hours, handouts, assignments, and datasets.

Course Format

Weekly Lab Topics: Each week, the TA briefly introduces the topic of the week, reviews basic concepts, illustrates how to use SPSS for investigating a particular problem, and introduces a research project.

Weekly Projects: During the remaining time, students work on the project assignment and prepare a report to be turned in for feedback and grading. TA's are available to assist students by answering questions and providing advice on how to use SPSS and interpret results.

Requirements and Grading

Lab Quizzes: At the start of each Monday lab there will be a short 5 minute quiz (with books and notes closed). These will be geared towards testing your ability to apply what you have learned in the previous lab to a given research scenario. The Monday quizzes will count towards your grade (see below).

Weekly Projects: All regular project assignments are due by 4pm on the Friday of the week you received the assignment. There are lockers in the classroom that are labeled for this use. You may drop ONE weekly project at the end of the term, either because you weren't able to complete it or because it earned the lowest score among the projects that you completed.
Comprehensive Final Exam: There will be a comprehensive exam administered on the date noted in the SDSU Final Exam Schedule. Your TA will provide additional information to help you study for the exam.

Comprehensive Final Project: There will be a comprehensive final project, due on **12/9 by 4pm**.

**COURSE GRADE BREAK-DOWN:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Projects: 10</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project: 1</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exam: 1</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Quizzes: 10</td>
<td>6%</td>
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Your weighted average percentage across all the course assignments will be used to determine your letter grade in the course. One regular project with the lowest points will be dropped.

Note that the following letter grade ranges are provided as guidelines only.

A = 90% or above; B = 80 - 89.9%; C = 70 - 79.9%; D = 60 - 69.9%

Disclaimer: Grading guidelines are tentative and preliminary. Grading guidelines may be changed (± 3%) at any time to reflect changes in assignments, materials covered in class, and grading standards.

A grade of "U" indicates that you enrolled in a course, did not withdraw from the course, but failed to complete course requirements. For purposes of GPA computation, this grade is equivalent to an "F". If you attend a portion of a course and then, after receiving a failing grade, stop attending without officially withdrawing, you will receive a final grade of "F" rather than "U".

A grade of "I" for "incomplete authorized" is only given when a minor portion of required coursework has not been completed and evaluated in the prescribed time period due to unforeseen, but fully justified, reasons. It is your responsibility to bring pertinent information to the instructor and to reach an agreement on the means by which the remaining course requirements will be satisfied. An incomplete shall not be assigned when the only way you could make up the work would be to attend a major portion of the class when it is offered next.
**Late Assignments**

No late assignments will be accepted unless…

(a) …you talked to your TA prior to the deadline and received permission to hand in your assignment late, or

(b) …there was an unpredictable and serious emergency. Provide your TA with a copy of your doctor's note or a police report.

**Students with Special Needs**

Any participant in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact the TA personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate the student's educational progress.

**Missing Class**

Missing class does not excuse a student from handing in a project report on time. Students must contact their TA prior to a deadline and have a valid excuse and documentation to receive an extension of a project deadline. Project reports handed in after the deadline without the TA's permission will receive 0 points.

**Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty is a serious form of unethical behavior and will not be tolerated.

All prelabs, project reports, and exams must reflect a student's own and independent thinking and writing. That is, you may not copy descriptions, explanations, printouts, or graphs from other students or tutors.

As soon as a TA observes or suspects an instance of academic dishonesty, s/he will inform the Department office, which will immediately initiate a preliminary investigation. If the preliminary investigation indicates academic dishonesty, SDSU's Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/index.html) will be informed and an Academic Dishonesty Incidence Report will be filed.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the student may be expelled, suspended, or placed on probation. In addition, the student will receive an F (0 points) for the assignment. Two instances will lead to an immediate course grade of F.

You can view a flowchart of the judicial process here: http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/discipline2.html

If you have any questions about academic dishonesty or this policy, please ask your TA.
### Tentative Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>8/29 - 9/23</td>
<td>Research Methods (Ch. 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Note: No lab on 9/2. No class on 9/5 (Labor Day Holiday)</em></td>
<td>Descriptive Statistics and Graphing (Ch. 1 and 2)</td>
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<td>9/26 - 10/21</td>
<td>Inferential Statistics (Ch. 3, 11, &amp; 14)</td>
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<td>One-Sample t-tests (Ch. 17)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two-Sample t-tests (Ch. 18)</td>
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<td>10/24 - 11/18</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance (Ch. 24)</td>
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<td><em>Note: No lab on 11/11 (Veterans' Day Holiday)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/21 - 12/9</td>
<td>Final Project (Due 12/9 at 4pm)</td>
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<td>12/12 - 12/16</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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*Note: We will follow the final exam schedule established by the University:

- **Section 1**: 12/14, 8-10am
- **Section 2**: 12/12, 3:30-5:30
- **Section 3**: 12/16, 1-3pm
- **Section 4**: 12/12, 7-9pm