

PSY2100-001 Statistical Methods / Fall 2013
12:30-1:45pm T/R University Hall 5150F

Instructor: Dr. Jason Rose
Office: UH 6516

Course Requirements

Exams

There will be 4 exams during the semester (note that “Exam 4” is the final exam). Each of the exams is worth 100 points and consists of a combination of multiple-choice, calculation, and essay-style questions. Each exam will cover information presented in class and on assigned readings *since* the previous exam. Therefore, none of the exams are comprehensive (although material that comes up later in the course will build on

How to Succeed in this Course

I have seen first-hand that many students dread this statistics requirement. Many wonder why a statistics class is necessary for psychology majors. Others think back to math courses with considerable anxiety. I want you to know that I am aware that many students are nervous about this class and, above all, I want to help you succeed in this course. Moreover, I will do my best throughout the semester to convince you that it is quite natural for psychology and statistics to exist together.

Mastering the basics of statistics is much like learning a new language – it requires practice, practice, practice. New material builds on older material, and it is essential that you stay up on the class material. Here are some general strategies to consider when going through the course:

Attend Class

Attending class is critical for success in this course. In fact, research has shown that one of the best predictors of grades in courses is class attendance, and even the brightest students gain more insight by attending classes regularly. This is especially important in a class like statistics, as it is helpful to consume information multiple times and in a number of different formats (e.g., reading, lectures). Moreover, there will be some course material presented in class that does not appear in the book; thus, you will need to attend to get all the information covered on exams.

Read, Study, and Take Notes Actively

Research shows that many individuals read and write passively, that is, without thinking about the meaning of what they are covering. In reading and studying textbook-type material, everyone (professors included) must read actively and as a result somewhat slowly. Research shows that learning is much more effective if new information is related to old information. Passively writing down what is on the overhead screen or what is discussed in class without thinking about it will not help you learn or understand the material.

Study the Summaries and Section Headings Before and While You Read

Summaries and headings help you mentally organize what you read. The authors did not just throw a bunch of information together randomly; they present an organized framework of ideas and information. You should seek to discover and understand their organization. Research shows that information is learned best when it is part of an organized mental framework.

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