

PSY 2100-002 Statistical Methods / Fall 2018
Department of Psychology
University of Toledo
Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:55pm-2:15pm /UH 5150F

Instructor: Olivia Aspiras Office: UH6509 Telephone: Best to use email E-mail: Olivia.aspiras@utoledo.edu Office hours: TR 11:00am-12:30pm	TA: Lizz Gallinari Office: UH6511 E-mail: Elizabeth.Gallinari@utoledo.edu Office hours: MW 11:30am-1:00pm
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- critically evaluate research findings in scientific journals and in the media,
4. work with a statistical software program (SPSS), and
 5. possess a basic understanding of statistics that can be built upon in future research design and statistics classes.

Course Requirements

Exams

There will be 3 regular exams during the semester plus 1 final exam. Each of the regular exams is worth 100 points and the final exam is worth 150 points. The exams consist of a combination of multiple-choice, calculation, and essay-style questions. Each of the regular exams will cover information presented in class and on assigned readings *since* the previous exam—that is, the regular exams are non-cumulative. The bulk of the final exam is also non-cumulative, with exception of a 50-point section where you will identify what type of statistical test discussed during the semester would be used for particular examples (I will say more about this later). Exams should not be missed, but exams will be rescheduled if the student has a legitimate, university-sanctioned reason for missing the exam. If you can anticipate that you must miss an exam (e.g., for a participatory athletic event, religious holiday), contact the instructor via email at least *one week prior* to the exam. If you are unable to take an examination on time due to illness or emergency, notify me *before* the examination is scheduled to begin by sending me an email or by calling my office. Be prepared to take the make-up exam at the earliest possible date (to be taken at the Field House Testing Center on the Main Campus). If you do not follow these procedures exactly, you will not be permitted to make up the exam.

Homework Assignments

Homework is essential for success in this course. The assignments will solidify your understanding of course material. There will be 10 homework assignments worth 10 points each. Assignments will be posted on the course website 1 week prior to the listed due date. Assignments must be submitted electronically through Blackboard before the start of class on the day they are due. If you anticipate missing a homework assignment, please notify me via email at least *one week prior* to the due date.

Letter Grades

A 93+%

contact the instructor after class or during office hours so that appropriate arrangements may be made.

The contact information for the Office of Accommodations is as follows:

Campus Address: Rocket Hall 1820, Mail Stop #342

Phone Number: 419.530.4981

Web: <http://www.utoledo.edu/offices/student-disability-services/>

Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability (ADA)

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read: [The University's Policy on Non-Discrimination on the basis of Disability Act Compliance](#).

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 ó 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

