Course Syllabus
EDU 7311: Quantitative Statistics for Educational Research

Instructor: J. Kyle Roberts, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Literacy, Language, and Learning
Southern Methodist University

Website: http://faculty.smu.edu/kyler
email: kyler@smu.edu

Text:


I will also periodically hand out articles in class that I will expect you to read. These will be handed out as I feel you need more explanations of specific topics.

Statistical Software:
R (v. 2.7.2 or later) (http://www.r-project.org - http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu/)
Note: We will use this statistical package to conduct all analyses in this course. This is a free open-source package that can be downloaded from the above website.

Course Overview:
This course covers the application of statistical techniques for research in education as well as the development of skills in interpreting statistical concepts. The purpose of this course is to give you a more detailed introduction to the statistics that are often used in education and behavioral sciences. Because many of the articles and research papers that you will read in the future will utilize statistical procedures for experimental investigation, it is important that you are able to use and understand basic statistical concepts. This class will focus more on your ability to understand, calculate, and interpret certain educational statistics.

Please remain aware of all due dates for assignments and subsequent penalties. I am more than willing to meet with any of you at any time. Therefore, if you are having trouble with an assignment or a concept PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME!!! This should be done BEFORE an assignment is due – not after missing the assignment.

Course Evaluation:
Mid-Term Exam 25%
Final Exam (comprehensive) 35%
Homework/Computer Assignments 30%
Extra Reading 10%
General Grading Scale

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Exams:
The mid-term and final will be multiple choice exams. I will ask you to perform some calculations, but I will make sure and let you know what types of statistics I expect you to be able to compute prior to the exam. I would like to note that the exams will focus on whether or not you actually understand the meaning of the statistics introduced in this course. Therefore, meeting together in groups to study for this class will be of great use to you. I would also be willing to meet with some groups who would like review over specific topics. Both exams will be “open note/book” exams. Although I would caution you to make sure that you have studied thoroughly for the exam prior to taking it.

Homework:
I will periodically make homework assignments for you after completion of specific units. All homework assignments must be completed by the due date. Some of the homework will be paper and pencil, but some will involve your use of R. Regardless, all homework is to be turned in on the due date. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in the lowering of your semester average by one letter grade. I don’t give homework to be mean; I give it because I think that it will help you understand the concepts better. Incorrectly done assignments must be revised and resubmitted within one week for a maximum grade of 85 for the assignment.

Extra Reading:
I will require you to read one additional book for the course and turn in a 2-page synopsis of the book. The instructions for which book you must read and how to complete the synopsis will be given later.
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Course Policies and Professionalism

Technology Requirements: You will be required to check your SMU e-mail at least once per week or as frequently as requested by the instructor. If you have problems logging in, click on “How to Log On.” You may choose to direct e-mail to an alternate account, but university policy requires that you check your SMU account as well.

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend all classes, arriving on time and staying until dismissed. You are also expected to be prepared for class (with required readings or other assignments completed) and participate actively in all class discussions and activities. Points will be deducted for absences, tardiness, leaving early, lack of preparation or lack of participation.

If you need to be absent because of an illness, an emergency, or to attend to “school business,” contact the instructor (e-mail or voice mail) PRIOR to class and consult a colleague to determine what you missed and to get class notes. It is not the instructor’s responsibility to re-teach information missed, although the instructor will be available, as always, to answer specific questions about course content.

Missing more than 3 classes (20% of the total classes) will result in automatic failure, unless there is a documented, valid medical reason or emergency. Documentation must be presented to the instructor. Additionally, the instructor may require an extra assignment to make up for classes missed.

Late assignments: Assignments are expected to be turned in before class on the date they are due (see Course Calendar). Assignments are typically given to the instructor personally. Assignments not given in person to the instructor must be given in person to an assistant (Kerri Koury, 214-768-4889 OR Malissa Cloer, 214-768-8400) or mailed through the US postal service, postmarked by the due date of the assignment. Assignments left in an instructor’s mailbox or on a desk will not be accepted. Our usual office hours are M-F 8:00 to 5:00. Our address is: Department of Literacy, Language, and Learning, 3108 Fondren, Dallas, TX 75205.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557)* to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4.)

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)
Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

Honor Code: The honor code of Southern Methodist University governs all work in this course. Students should review their student handbook of the code. Cheating will result in automatic failure of the class.

Withdrawing from class: It is your responsibility to check the SMU website (academic calendar) for add/drop and withdraw dates.

Cell Phones: Please do not make or receive calls in class. If you have a cell phone, put it on silent mode. If because of an emergency, you feel you must take a call, please let me know ahead of time. If you forget to turn your phone off and it rings, please stop the ringing as quickly as possible. Under no circumstances should you begin a conversation in the classroom.

Classroom Discussions: During class, avoid “side” conversations. These are distracting to instructors and your colleagues. Professional respect and courtesy for each other are expected at all times.

Obtaining Assistance: We are very committed to your progress! We are available to provide you with the assistance you need to demonstrate proficiency with course content. It is your responsibility to seek assistance with course projects and assignments in a timely fashion.