

# **SOCIOLOGY 8811**

## **ADVANCED SOCIAL STATISTICS**

**Spring 2011, TU & TH 12:45-2:00 Social Sciences 1114**  
**Lab MON 2:30-4:25 Blegen 440**

<http://www.soc.umn.edu/~knoke/courses.htm>

**Professor: David Knoke**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:15-12:00; other times by appointment

**Teaching Assistant: Kyungmin Baek**

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Office Hours: \_\_\_\_\_; other times by appointment

SOC 8811 is a social science data analysis course required for all sociology graduate students. We will cover three topics in five-week modules: logistic regression and other limited dependent variables, structural equation models, and event history analysis. All students who enroll should be competent in basic OLS multiple regression; SOC 5811 Intermediate Social Statistics offers sufficient preparation.

**Website:** The course Website contains a copy of this syllabus, Course Notes for the three topics, lab assignments, and a few other materials. Click through my Webpages or bookmark this URL: <<http://www.soc.umn.edu/~knoke/SOC8811.htm>> I will email these and other materials during the course.

**Calculator:** Bring a cheap hand calculator with a square-root key to every class.

**Storage Device:** Buy a flash memory stick to save your lab work.

**Computer:** Individual computer accounts for nonsociology students will be assigned at the beginning of the course. The TA will give basic instruction in the use of Stata and LISREL during labs. In addition to remote terminals from off-campus or on-campus facilities, you may use the Department's Data Center on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of Social Sciences Bldg.

**Grading:** Course grades are based on three assignments, each carrying 33.33% weight in computing the course grade. Assignments that are submitted late without an acceptable excuse will have their scores reduced by a half-letter grade.

**Incompletes:** No course incompletes or deadline extensions will be made without a written explanation from a medical authority.

# ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

By becoming a student at the University of Minnesota, you have agreed to abide by the University's code of conduct, including its provisions on scholastic dishonesty. I take this obligation very seriously. **Depending on the severity of a scholastic dishonesty, I will award a grade of F for the entire assignment or the entire course, as well as pursuing disciplinary action with University authorities.** Here is the relevant University policy:

**From UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY  
STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

**Section V. DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES**

**Subd. 1. Scholastic Dishonesty.** Scholastic dishonesty mean plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records of to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

[http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/academic/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)

**Cheating on assignments** is the most relevant issue for this basic social statistics class. Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary (1987:898) defines the verb *cheat* as "to defeat the purpose or blunt the effects of." You are accountable for learning the course material and demonstrating your statistical knowledge through your performances on the lab assignments. **All coursework must be entirely your own work: YOU CANNOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN ANY FORM ON LAB ASSIGNMENTS from another person (except from the teaching assistant or instructor).**

**College and Department Policies:** See attached.

*This material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact Ann Miller, Department of Sociology, 909 Social Sciences (612) 624-4300.*

## **TOPICAL CALENDAR SPRING 2011**

<b>Weeks 1-5</b> <b>Jan 18-Feb 17</b>	<b>Logistic Regression &amp; Other Limited Dependent Variables</b>
<b>Week 5</b> <b>Feb 17</b>	<b>First Assignment due Thursday February 17</b>
<b>Weeks 6-10</b> <b>Feb 22-Mar 31</b>	<b>Event History Analysis</b>
<b>Mar 14-18</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK WEEK</b>
<b>Week 10</b> <b>Mar 31</b>	<b>Second Assignment due Thursday March 31</b>
<b>Weeks 11-15</b> <b>Apr 5-May 5</b>	<b>Structural Equation Models</b>
<b>Week 15</b> <b>May 5</b>	<b>Third Assignment due Thursday May 5</b>
<b>Week 16</b> <b>May 9-13</b>	<b>Exam Week; NO EXAM</b>

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICY

**GRADES:** University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

- A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 grade points)
- A- 3.67 grade points
- B+ 3.33 grade points
- B Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
- B- 2.67 grade points
- C+ 2.33 grade points
- C Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
- C- 1.67 grade points
- D+ 1.33 grade points
- D Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
- F Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
  
- N No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
- I Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work. If a course is not completed as prescribed or not made up as agreed within the year, the I will lapse to an F if registered on the A-F grade base or an N if registered on the S-N grade base.
- W Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester. You must file a course cancellation request before the end of the sixth week of the semester to ensure that the W, rather than the F, will be formerly entered on your record.

**FINAL EXAMINATIONS (see schedule on the Calendar web site at <http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/Calendars/FinalExams.html>):** You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times. Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (as noted on the above web page). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** As a CLA student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (<http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/>).

**COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING:** Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected from the instructor and teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the standards for grading in their classes and will describe expectations, methods of evaluation, and factors that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR:** You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined in the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook on-line at <http://advisingtools.class.umn.edu/cgep/>).

**SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT:** The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

*Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.* Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the description above. It could also be said that scholastic dishonesty is any act that violates the rights of another student with respect to academic work or that involves misrepresentation of a student's own work. Also included would be cheating on assignments or examinations, inventing or falsifying research or other findings with the intent to deceive, submitting the same or substantially similar papers (or creative work) for more than one course without consent of all instructors concerned, depriving another of necessary course materials, and sabotaging another's work. Should misconduct arise, the college's Scholastic Conduct Committee in cooperation with the Office of Student Academic Integrity/Student Judicial Affairs (OSAI/SJA) assists instructors in resolving cases, reviews cases in which students believe themselves unfairly treated, and checks for multiple offenses in different courses. Faculty members who suspect students of scholastic misconduct must report the matter to OSAI/SJA. **Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop").**

**A REMINDER OF RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**  
**\* SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES \***

**GRADE INFORMATION:** Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through their computer account. They may do this by following the directions on the One Stop web site at <http://onestop.umn.edu/>.

**INCOMPLETES:** It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an "I" grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor.

**MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:** Each semester the Sociology Department arranges a special time for make-up examinations, with proctors arranged by the department. This exam is mainly for students who need to make up work from the previous semester, (i.e. quiz, midterm, or final) and who have made arrangements with the instructor to do so. A make-up session is held near mid term each semester, including summer session. Information about the make-up session is available from the front office (909 Soc Sci). Students who wish to take the exam must contact the front office early in the semester and get approval to attend the make-up session from their instructor. Any other arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements.

**GRADE CHANGES:** Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department associate chair and/or the department academic advisor (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked. See the departmental advisor in 923 Social Sciences to explore options.

**SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION:** The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. We also have an Honors Program. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should attend an information meeting about the major. Meetings are held about once a week. Sign up for a meeting in 909 Social Sciences. Further information can be obtained from the following persons and offices:

General information, Sociology Department, 909 Social Sciences - 624-4300

Undergraduate Advisor, Becky Mooney, 923 Social Sciences – 624-6013

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Rob Warren, 1172 Social Sciences - 624-2310

Sociology Honors Advisor, Professor Joachim Savelsberg, 1181 Social Sciences - 624-0273

Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Penny Edgell, 1074 Social Sciences – 624-9828 and/or Robert Fox, Graduate Program Associate, 931 Social Sciences - 624-2093