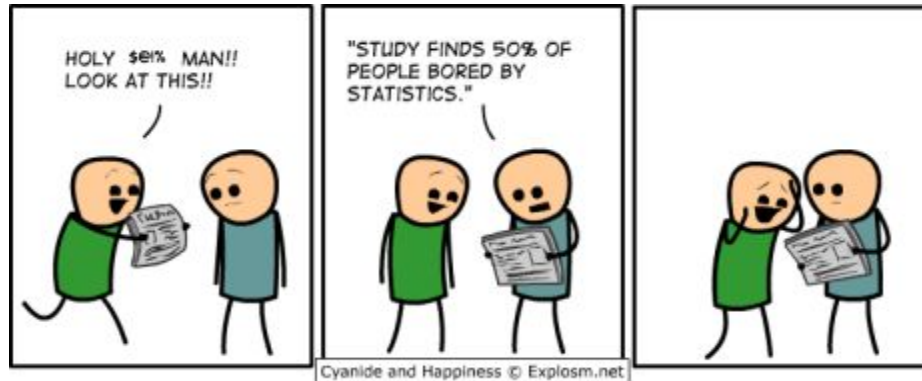


SOCIOLOGY 309: Social Research II

Spring 2020



Instructor: Emily K. Carian

Email: emily.carian@csusb.edu

Zoom drop-in office hours: Tuesdays 3-4pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm (and by appointment if those times does not work for you)
<https://csusb.zoom.us/j/170214712>

Course Description and Objectives

Welcome to Sociology 309: Social Research II! The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the statistical methods sociologists use to answer questions about the social world. This course will help you become a better *consumer* of research: you will be able to critically evaluate claims you read in class, the news, on social media, and elsewhere. This course will also help you become a *producer* of research: you will be able to ask and answer your own research questions in a scientifically valid way. Our class will cover topics including null and alternative hypotheses, t-tests, chi-square tests of independence, and correlation.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- identify and implement appropriate statistical tests to describe patterns in data and draw conclusions.
- interpret descriptive statistics and statistical analyses.
- convey research findings in writing.

Required Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. Required and recommended readings will be posted on Blackboard in each weekly folder. **You are required to make use of our Blackboard site.** Please make sure you can access it and spend some time familiarizing yourself with where everything is. **If you do not have access to a reliable Internet source and a computer/laptop, please let me know immediately.**

Tips for Succeeding in an Online Class

This class will take place online. Online courses require more self-direction than in-person courses. Some tips to succeed:

- Organize your time so that you can complete your coursework by the due date. Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure you have enough time to finish assignments.
- If you can, schedule certain dedicated times every week to work on the readings and assignments.
- Check your Coyote email and the Blackboard site frequently for announcements, etc.
- Limit social media use while you're studying.
- Take notes on readings, VoiceThreads, etc. You can use these notes on the quizzes!
- If something on Blackboard is not working properly, tell Professor Carian right away!

Grading and Assignments

You will be graded according to the following scale:

A = 93% and higher	C = 73-76%
A- = 90-92%	C- = 70-72%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 83-86%	D = 63-66%
B- = 80-82%	D- = 59-62%
C+ = 77-79%	F = 58% and lower

Your percent score is based on the following scheme:

Course Assignments:	30%
Lab Reports:	30%
Quizzes:	40%

Course Assignments (30%):

Each week, you will complete course assignments. Some of these assignments will be graded based on whether you complete them and some will be graded based on whether your answers are correct. All assignments are posted in the weekly folders on Blackboard. Course assignments are due by Sundays at midnight.

Lab Reports and Reflections (30%):

The purpose of lab is to give you practice in applying the statistical techniques we learn and interpreting results. Labs are posted in the weekly folders on Blackboard. Labs are also due by Sundays at midnight. I recommend doing the lab *after* you have completed all coursework. Labs are graded based on whether your answers are correct.

Quizzes (40%):

You will take three quizzes during the quarter. The quiz questions cover material from PowerPoints/VoiceThreads, the required readings, course assignments, and other course materials. Each quiz is available for one week and can be completed at any time during the week. Quiz 1 is available from April 27 to May 3; quiz 2 is available from May 18 to May 24; and quiz 3 is available

from June 6 to June 13. Quizzes are open-note and open-book, but are also timed and should be completed independently (on your own). **Quizzes are posted in the weekly folders on Blackboard.**

My Expectations of Students

Coronavirus/COVID-19:

This quarter is going to be difficult and strange for all of us. This will be the first online class for some of you. Some of you will be trying to complete coursework while watching children or caring for sick loved ones. My first priority is your health and safety. There will be bumps in the road, so please tell me how I can support you during this time. I can make accommodations for you (in terms of classwork) and I may be able to point you toward resources. I also ask for your patience as I work to re-design this class so it works online. The schedule below is not set in stone; we'll probably have to change things as I figure out what works and what doesn't work. Thank you for being flexible.

Communication:

I appreciate honesty and transparency, and I expect you to communicate with me in a timely manner (i.e. within 48 hours) about issues that will prevent you from participating fully in this class. If you are experiencing a serious problem (e.g., personal illness or illness of a child/parent/etc, childcare obstacles), please let me know in office hours, or by email (emily.carian@csusb.edu), especially if the problem will affect your ability to complete your coursework. **Keep me in the loop! Remember: I cannot make accommodations for you if you do not communicate with me.**

Late Work:

I have high expectations for all students, including turning in assignments on time. As always, in the case of a serious issue that will prevent you from turning in an assignment on time, tell me as soon as possible to make arrangements. Exceptions to the deadline will be made on a case-by-case basis. Otherwise, late work will not be accepted.

Classroom Culture:

I expect students to contribute to a respectful and inclusive learning environment with their actions and their words. As your instructor, I will strive to do the same.

Academic Honesty:

Plagiarism (claiming credit for someone else's ideas or words) and cheating are against the Student Conduct Code. In addition to decreasing how much you will learn, plagiarizing and cheating will earn you a failing grade in this class. **To avoid plagiarizing and cheating, complete your work (especially quizzes) on your own.** Always use your own words; avoid the temptation to use even half a sentence written by someone else.

Resources to Help You Succeed

Zoom Drop-In Office Hours:

I highly encourage you to attend Zoom drop-in office hours (Tuesdays 3pm-4pm and Thursdays 10am-12pm, or by appointment if those times do not work for you). **You do not need an appointment to come to drop-in office hours; this is a time I set aside each week specifically to meet with you!** Just click this [link](#), which is also located on the left-hand navigation panel on our course Blackboard site

and at the top of this syllabus. If you need to dial in by phone:

Dial:

+1 669 900 6833 (US Toll)

+1 346 248 7799 (US Toll)

+1 253 215 8782 (US Toll)

+1 301 715 8592 (US Toll)

+1 312 626 6799 (US Toll)

+1 646 876 9923 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 170 214 712

When you come to Zoom office hours, you will be placed in a “waiting room.” This is so I can meet with students one-on-one. I will let you into our “meeting room” as soon as I am free. During office hours, we can clarify anything that’s confusing, talk about new topics, work on assignments, discuss graduate school in sociology and job paths, and more! **I expect every student to come to office hours at least once.**

Email:

In addition to communicating with me during office hours, you are welcome to contact me via email (emily.carian@csusb.edu) with questions or clarifications. To save both of us time, please consider whether your question is best answered in office hours or over email. Before you email me a question, make sure you look for the answer in the syllabus and/or assignment instructions. While I make an effort to respond to student emails on the same day, I cannot promise I will respond to emails sent after 5pm until the next day.

Recommended Readings:

I have tried to minimize the number of assigned readings for this course so you can concentrate on what is important, which is understanding the concepts. If you are the type of person who benefits from in-depth readings or if you are struggling with these topics, I have posted recommended readings on Blackboard (under Recommended Readings). They are:

Topic	Recommended Reading
Null and alternative hypotheses	Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero Chapter 5
T-tests	Excerpt from Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero Chapter 9
Chi-square tests of independence	Excerpt from Frankfort-Nachmias & Leon-Guerrero Chapter 11

Blackboard:

This course will make use of the Blackboard site for posting readings, turning in assignments, keeping track of grades, and making announcements. **Please make sure you are able to access Blackboard and check the site frequently.** Note that we will be using the Blackboard site for the lecture, not the Blackboard site for the lab sections.

Support for Students with Disabilities:

If you require an accommodation to participate fully in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so we can arrange accommodations. Additionally, contact [Services for Students with Disabilities](#) at 909-537-528 (UH-183) to verify your eligibility for services and obtain necessary services.

Basic Needs:

If you are having trouble affording groceries, accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or if you lack a safe and stable place to live, I encourage you to contact the [Basic Needs](#) unit (basicneeds@csusb.edu). They can point you to resources like the [Obershaw DEN](#) food pantry (FO-237; TheObershawDen@csusb.edu), short-term housing, and emergency loans.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):

College can be stressful; make sure you take care of your mental and emotional well-being. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) is available for students with personal, academic, and relationship concerns. You can call them at 909-537-5040, or visit their [website](#).

University Policies and Emergencies:

You can review the University's policies on plagiarism, cheating, and course withdrawal in the [Academic Regulations and Procedures](#) section of the CSUSB Bulletin of Courses. For information regarding emergency procedures and safety guidelines, visit the [Office of Emergency Management and Business Continuity](#).

Course Schedule

Notes:

- Remember, all coursework is due on Sundays at midnight. For example, the coursework for week 1 is due on April 12 at midnight.
- This schedule is subject to change. Stay up-to-date using the most recent version of the syllabus on Blackboard, under Syllabus.

Important Dates:

- April 27 - May 3: Quiz 1 available
- May 18 - May 24: Quiz 2 available
- June 6 - June 13: Quiz 3 available

Week 1 (4/6 - 4/12)

How do I measure the things I'm interested in? Variables and levels of measurement

1. Read the syllabus
2. Take the syllabus quiz
3. Watch the "Introduction to Statistics Video"
4. Read "What is the difference between categorical, ordinal and numerical variables?"
5. Review the "Variables and Levels of Measurement VoiceThread"
6. Complete the "Variables and Levels of Measurement Activity"

No lab this week

Week 2 (4/13 - 4/19)

How can I describe my data? Descriptive statistics and measures of variation

1. Read “Schutt Chapter 9”
2. Review the “Descriptive Statistics and Measures of Variation VoiceThread”
3. Watch the “Descriptive Statistics and Measures of Variation Video”
4. Complete the “Practice with Descriptive Statistics and Measures of Variation Activity”

Lab 1: Interpreting frequency tables and crosstabs

Week 3 (4/20 - 4/26)

How can I describe my data? Z-scores

1. Review the “Z-scores VoiceThread”
2. Watch the “Z-scores Video”
3. Complete the “More Practice with Measures of Variation Activity”
4. Complete “Quiz 1 Practice” and check your answers against the key

Lab 2: Descriptive statistics

Week 4 (4/27 - 5/3)

Quiz 1: Available from 4/27 - 5/3

What is probability? Probability and the Central Limit Theorem

1. Read “Wheelan Chapter 5” and “Wheelan Chapter 8”
2. Review the “Probability and Central Limit Theorem VoiceThread”
3. Complete the “Fundamentals of Probability Activity”

No lab this week

Week 5 (5/4 - 5/10)

How can I use statistics to compare two means? T-tests

1. Read “Phillips Chapter 7”
2. Review the “T-tests VoiceThread”
3. Watch the “T-tests Video”
4. Complete the “Practice with T-tests Activity”

Lab 3: More Descriptive Statistics

Week 6 (5/11 - 5/17)

How can I write formal hypotheses? Null and alternative hypotheses

1. Review the “Formal Hypotheses VoiceThread”
2. Watch the “T-tests with Formal Hypotheses Video”
3. Complete the “More Practice with T-tests Activity”
4. Complete “Quiz 2 Practice” and check your answers against the key

Lab 4: T-tests

Week 7 (5/18 - 5/24)

Quiz 2: Available from 5/18 - 5/24

How can I use statistics to compare frequencies? Chi-square tests of independence

1. Read from “Phillips Chapter 8”
2. Review the “Chi-Square Test VoiceThread”
3. Watch the “Chi-Square Test Video”
4. Complete the “Practice with Chi-Square Tests Activity”

No lab this week

Week 8 (5/25 - 5/31)

How can I use statistics to quantify (measure) a relationship? Correlation

1. Read “Wheelan Chapter 4”
2. Review the “Correlation VoiceThread”
3. Complete the “Practice with Correlation Activity”

Lab 5: Chi-Square Tests

Week 9 (6/1 - 6/7)

How and when do I use t-tests, chi-square tests, and correlation?

1. Review the “Which Test? VoiceThread”
2. Complete the “Which Test? Activity”
3. Complete “Quiz 3 Practice” and check your answers against the key

Lab 6: Correlation

Finals Week (6/8 - 6/13)

Quiz 3: Available from 6/6 - 6/13